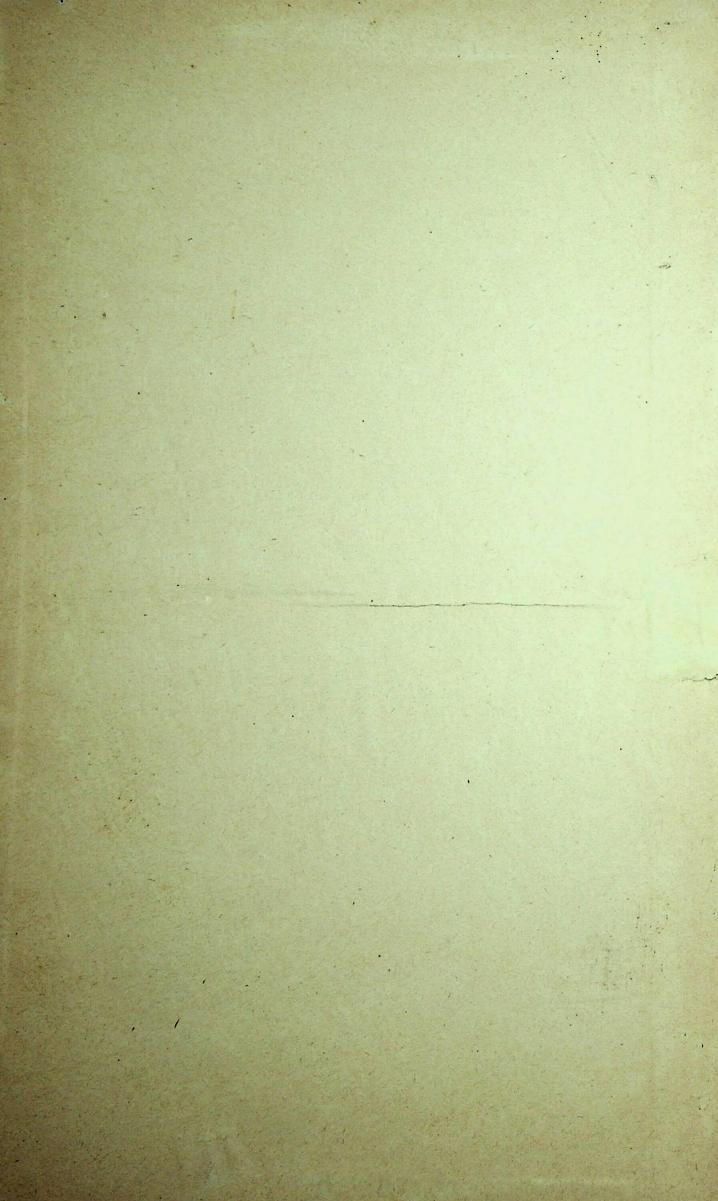
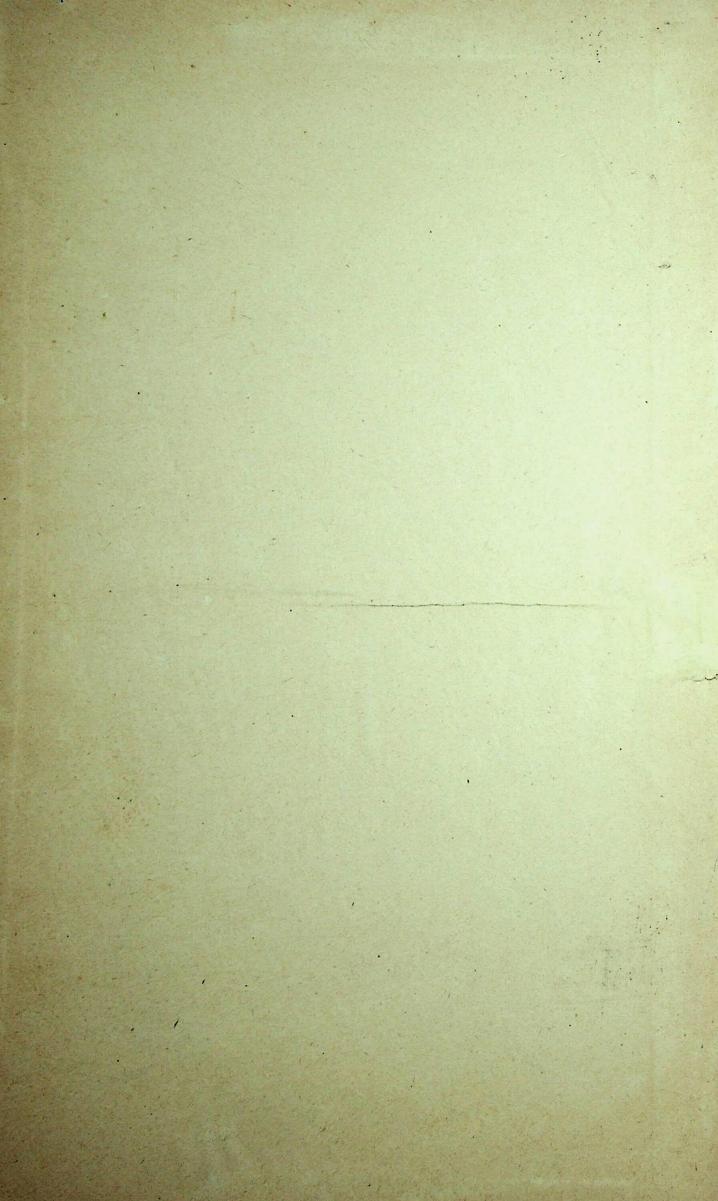
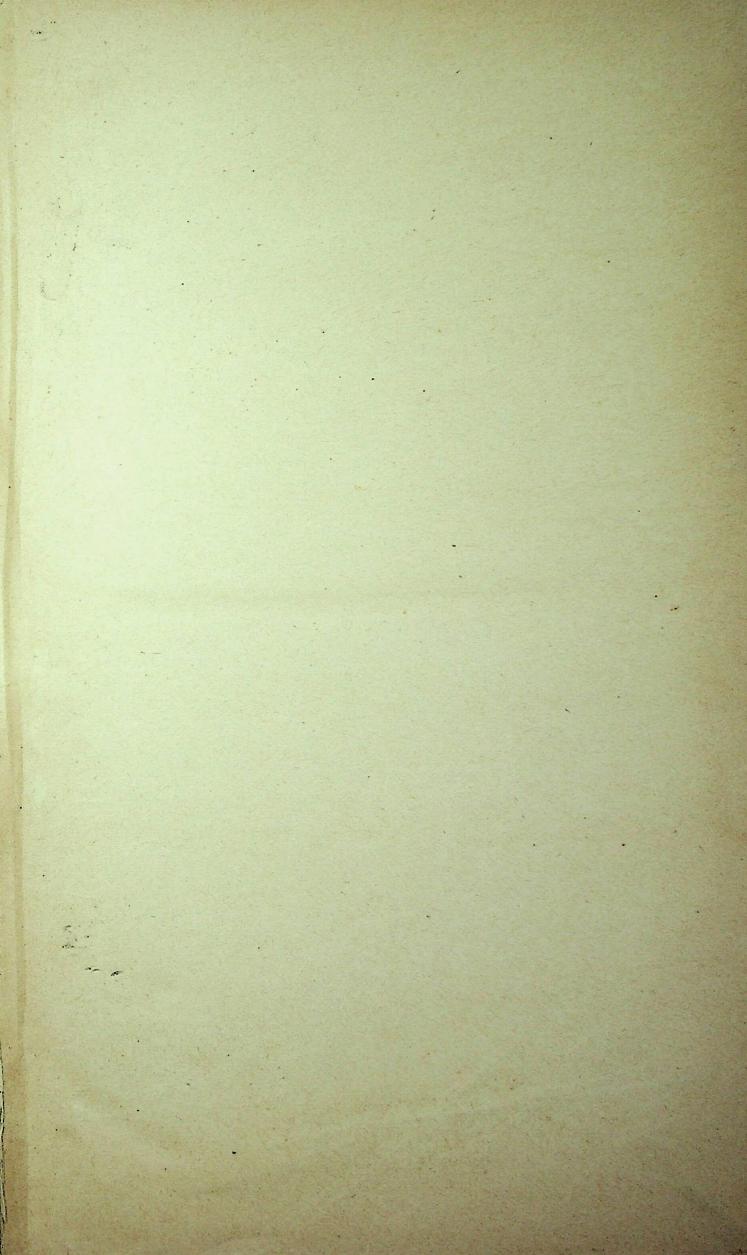
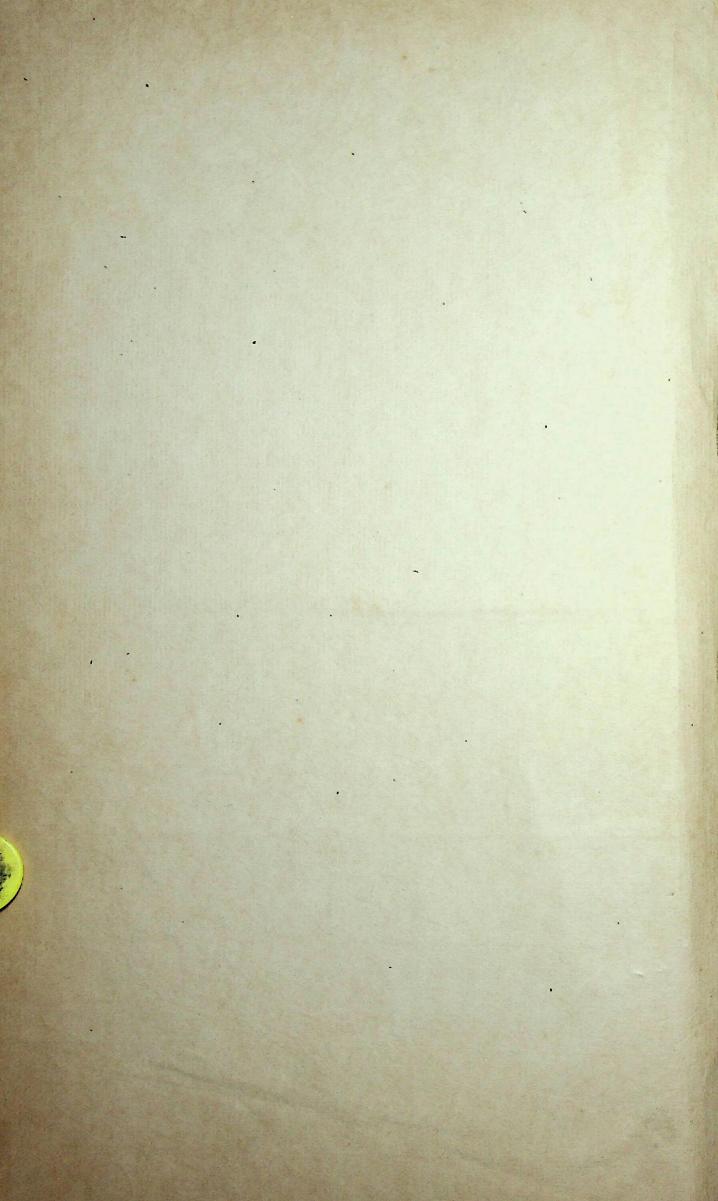
Chrondopical order of Crupte DYNASTY











(Sri) Guota (Itsing who travelled through India in the last (c. 270-300) quarter of the 7th cent, seems referring to the first ruler of the Gupta dynasty, when he states that about 500 years ago a great king Sri-Gupta built a temple for Chinese pilgrims near Mrga-sikha-vana, which was about 300 miles to the east of Malania. This would place Sri Gupta in the vicinity of Murshidabad Distt. of Bengal in about ? A.D. 175 to 200. On the other hami the Gupta inscriptions begin their genealogy from Maharaja Gupta, who was the grand-father of Candragupta If we take 319 A.D. as the date of Candra Gupta I, the date of his grand-father Maharaja Gupta (called Adiraja in Poona plates of Prabhavati Gupta) would be about 270 A.D. Was, then, Maharaja Gupta identical with Sri Gupta mentioned by I-tsing, or they were different persons? The slight difference in their names, and the difference of a 100 years in time, has led some scholars to regard them as different persons. Putting Sri Gupta a 100 years before Maharaja Gupta, they have supposed one or two unknown generations more to fill up the gap. But Allan rightly identifies the two rulers. The difference in their names is not a serious difficulty, for Sri of Sri Gupta can be taken as honorific. The objection of time can be answered by the fact that I-tsing's statement about an event far remote from his time, was based on ancient tradition or hearsay. Moreover, I-tsing mentions the period in round figures, and to say 500 for 450 is not an uncommon experience. We may, therefore, safely conclude that both Sri Gupta and Maharaja Gupta were identical persons, and that the Gupta dynasty began with Maharaja Gupta as the evidence of their records shows.

Ghatotkaca | About his son, Maharaja Ghatotkaca, we know from (c. 300-319) |

the Allahabad Piller Inscription only that he, like his father, was styled as Maharaja. Some scholars regard Chatotkaca as the same person as Kaca whose name occurs on gold coins. But those coins bear on the reverse the legend 'sarva-rajoccheta' — the exterminator of all kings, which certainly Chatotkaca — not. Moreover, being a mere feudatory king Chatotkaca was not entitled to issue gold coins. Therefore he cannot be identical with Kaca. No other exclusive record of these early Cupta rulers is found.

that give at state against process of witholds also . Theo day o deals bushings to chianty at ai 275 to 200. In the other limit the facts interplations to rolling war old an old about about 1 and 2001 If we take 510 1, 1, is the date of Craim Conte I, the date of To calaby around at a min4 ballso) arest a reside to Wall-bern well Aughe) would be signt 171 A. D. Man, then, labor is Code i who was the cold to the training or they were different percent the distriction in their school in it. in the los cole ed clare to coneri, rated by the Contract of ACC Policy Lectors Tellington Contracts They bear the er to o march medical cure to the medical medical ni della distributa della come di come della or a sociour difficulty, for his of thi trade orn to taken an homorifo objection of the print of anieral brelle free that 1-th force of the court of the religion of the tree of the court of the cou bestition or hoursey. Suppress - bring-worklose Marco, the to my 130 for the notice and the or the workers, such it of which the fore the contract of identified remone, ontothet the fight structly begin eith er the evidence of their percuis slowe.

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Candragupta I *Anugangam Prayagam ca Saketam Magadhama tatha,
(c. 319-350) • Etan janapadan garvan mokayante Gupta-vamsajah.*
(C. 320-330)-'Sdut Ashigan' (Purana).

The Allahabed Pillar Inscription mentions Candragupta after Ghatot-kaca. The title of Maharajadhiraja of Candragupta in contrast with the simple title of Maharaja of his forefathers, accounts for the assumption that through his matrimonial alliance with the Licchavis, he rose to the powerful status of an Emperor and started the Gupta era to commemorate his succession to the throne in 319 A.D. About his last date we have no definite evidence. (Gold coins commemorate his marriage with the Licchivi Princess).

According to the Allahabad Pillar Inscription, Samudragupta 1 (c. 330-375)5./ (c. 350-374) Samudragupta succeeded his father Candragupta I. Like his father, he too is styled as Maharajadhiraja. The Malanda Copper-plate and Gaya Copper-plate dated 5 and 9 Gupta years (A.D. 324 & 328) respectively, which are attributed to Semulragupta, seem to be spurious. Therefore they cannot be reliable for determining the date of Samudragupta. Some scholars have tried to identify Samudragupta with Kaca of gold coins, as these coins have a striking resemblance with those of Samudragupta. But Gupta coins invariably use only one real name of the ruler. Hence Kaca and Samudragupta must be taken as different monarchs. Kaca may have been, as some scholars have suggested, the elder brother of Samulra gupta. According to them Kaca, being jealous of his fortunate younger brother Samudragupta, seized the opportunity of capturing the throne when their father Candragupta I died on the other bank of Ganga, and when Samudragupta, who was elected by his father to succeed, was absent from the capital. This supposition may seem to derive some sort of confirmation from internal evidence of the inscription, viz., "tulyakulaja-mlananodviksitah" --- 'looked at with envy with faces, melancholy (through the rejection of themselves) by others of equal birth'-The gaps after the verse "Aryo hityupaguhya ..." may have contained reference to the fratricidal wars along with the rebellion of other feudatory kings also. But nothing definite can be inferred from these fragments. The difficulty of placing Kaca before Samurragupta temains unsolved, as the epithet of 'servarajoccheta' for a ruler just before

Samudragupte is unthinkable. It was Samudragupta who, for the first

time in the Gupta dynasty, conquered other feulatory kings of Uttara-

orasilarda deservados acollege college college attitudad a college de to be the set that went to it this way year or interstead of the equation to the text of the court and so of monthly and harries has now only no to and the Englance; with That the supposed in the theater the 1.1. About 18. 2. 200 with anystepen and exemples of the coline of exemples of ever Association to the effection which a mediane Secondary the succession and the property of the succession of the to be right an Colored will be a land of the fair of the fair of the color of the fair of the color of the colored in person (SEA . 188 . A. A. State of the B. Sea . All seasons ! and the contract of a few languages, control of a control of the c end . It to religion to while also religious part of the first out to enter enfor along to so if adds adopt ricers? This was on Lebel ever true ados were whole in apply different principle a one which every to tonds tracke the local first old place our chargeson union establish ter car indicate for the continue of the content of the to contain the to all all thousand the profession of the first the same and the red . Ascording to they had, being toologs of the bear a few the base to the first court of the base of the comment and the the sleet sticker Organizate all as that an ite origin to be the the decided of which thereath cancel at english the to se try the contol. Whe supplying to pure to during to and the state of t .a. and then the state of Labour -w. Mindentation visit - district a color (alsospellation se jed done of the polyment by observe of basely likely). to the control of the state of the control of the state o raids to notifiator at offic qualifiers a full purious of for consequen e all on length of the establishment of the control consider the standard was all particularly between the constant of and the first and the second of the second o Complete the following the first are the configuration of all and the configurations and all and the configurations are the configurations and the configuration of the configura

patha and Daksinapatha, and could be called 'sarvarajoccheta'.

Ramagupta [Cc. 374-375) [Before the discovery of a play "Devi-Candraguptam", (c. 374-375) [But Visakhedatta, Candragupta II was held as the immediate successor of Samudragupta. But through a critical study of this play it was found that Samudragupta was succeeded by his eldest son Ramagupta. According to "Devi-Candraguptam", a contemporary Saka king overwhelmed him and demanded from him his queen Dhruvadevi, in whose guies Candragupta II went to Sakapati and killed him. Afterwards Candragupta II murdered his elder brother Ramagupta and married his widow.

Apart from the literary evidences of Bana (Harsacaritam), Sankararya (Harsacarita-tika), and Abul Hassan Ali (Majma-ut-tarikh) to confirm these events, there are epigraphic records also. In Sanjan Plates of Ameghavarsa I, dated 871 A.D., it is stated "that donor in the Kaliyuga, who was of the Gupta limeage, having killed his brother, we are told, seized his kingdom and wife." This is further proved by the fact that Dhruwadevi, the name of Candragupta II's queen occurring in Gupta records is the same as the name of Ramagupta's widow whom Candragupta is represented in the play to have recruisd. The disgraceful compliance of Ramagupta with the demand of the Sakapati may explain the absence of his name from the Gupta records. The total absence of his coins indicates his very short reign.

Candragupta II Candragupta II, after killing his brother Rame(A.D. 375-412)
gupta, ascended the throne in 375 A.D., for his first date is known
from Mathura inscription, dated 580 as his 5th regnal year. And his
last date is known from Sanchi Stone Pillar Inscription dated in Gupta
year 95 (412 A.D.).

Govindagupta (413-414 A.D.) Mext to this date on the Gupte records is A.D. Which is given to Kumaragupta I. Between the last known date of Candragupta II (412 A.D.) and the earliest found date of Kumaragupta I (415 A.D.), there is an interval of three years. It is quite possible (? probable) that either Candragupta II ruled up to A.D. 414, or Kumaragupta started his rule from A.D. 415. But a newly discovered Seal of Dhruvesvenini at Basarh has brought to light another son of Candragupta II, named Maharaja Govindagupta, the son of Dhruvesvenini, the queen of Candragupta II.

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omission of the name of Skandagupta's mother shows that neither she was Mahadevi, nor he himself was the rightful heir to the throne.

But we must remember that neither the mention of the mothers of the Gupta rulers, even when they were apparently Mahadevis, was essential, nor necessarily the eldest son alone was held as a rightful heir. Again, the reference in the Junagerh Rock Insc. is not to a fratricidal conflict, but to a war with berberians (Hunas & Pusyemitras). Equally untenable is the effort of Majumdar in identifying Skandagupta with Purugupta, as we do not hear of two different names of the same sovereign on the Cupta coins. And the suggestion to meet this controversy by saying that Shandagupta and Purugupta were ruling contemporarily after dividing the Gupta Empire, is absolutely impossible and fantastic. The coins and records of Standagupta, Purugupta and his successors are found practically in all parts of the country and at the same places. Therefore, the division of the Empire between them cannot hold good. Finally, the mention of Purugupta in Bhitari Seel immediately after Kumaragupta I with the prefix 'tat-padamudhyata' does not necessarily prove that Purugupta was the immediate successor of the latter. On the other hand, there are two more convincing anf forceful proofs for placing Standagupta immediately after Kumeragupta I. First is the more extensive territory covering the findspots of the coins of Standagupta, in contrast with the smaller region of the findspots of the coins of Purugupta, N.-gupta and Kunaragupta II. The territory of Skandagupta corresponds to that just held by his father Kumaragupta I and the territory of the later rulers indicates a subsequent disintegration of the Empire. Secondly, the last known date of Kumaragupta I is G.S. 136, and also the first date of the Sandagupta is the same, which is found on Junagarh Rock Insc.

Skendagupta After the death of Kumaragupta I in 455, Skanda-A.D. 455-467) gupta ascebded the throne in the same year. This date is met with on the famous Jun. Rock Insc. As a result of comparatively long reign of his father and grand-father, 40 and 56 years respectively, Skandagupta ruled for a short period of 12 years only. No coin bearing the name of Skandagupta is found after the year 148 G.S. i.e. A.D. 467.

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Purugupta (A.D. 467-475) After Skendagupta, his brother Purugupta came to (A.D. 467-475)
the throne. The omission of the name of Skandagupta, from the Bhitari
Seal of Kumaragupta III may be accounted for by the hostile relations
between the brothers or be attributed to the usual practice of omitting the names of collateral kings. The paucity of his coins indicates

From the reign of Purugupta onward, we are confronted with a period of total confusion which presents difficulties in making out a chronological order.

his short period of reign, and very presumably he died in 473 A.D.

After Purugupta, Bhitari Seal of Kumaragaupta III gives a Gupta lineage genealogical order of Purugupta, Marasimhagupta and Kumaragupta, and further, the Malanda clay Seal gives Vismugupta as Kunaragupta's son. These inscriptions give no date at all. The data of the Seals when put together gives the order of succession in the following way :- namely, after Purugupta his son Marasimhagupta, after him his son Kumaragupta, and after him his son Vismugupta. On the other hand, we get from a Malanda Seal another son of Purugupta, namely, Budhagupta whose date is known from another insc. from Sarnath as 476 A.D., i.e. 9 years after the last known date of Skandagupta. Now, it has to be seen as to which Purugupta's two sons, Marasimhagupta and Budhagupta, came to the throne first. If Marasimhagupta preceded Budhagupta, then NG must have been followed by his son Kumaragupta, and by his grand-son Visnugupta, because there is no reason to interrupt this available genealogical lineThis course, if admitted, would allow only 9 years for 4 generations of which Purugupta, Marasimhagupta, Kumaragupta and Vismugupta., which is highly impossible for 4 generations not only to come on the throne, but for the latter two generations even to come into existence. It may, therefore, be granted that Budhagupta preceded Marasimhagupta and his successors Kumaragupta and Visnugupta.

Now, the mention of Kumaragupta in Sarnath insc. dated A.D. 473 is to be reconciled. This mention of the date certainly places him before Budhagupta (476). How can, then, he be identified with Kumaragupta of Bhitari Seal, whose presence before Budhagupta has been proved above as impossible? Consequently, both of them must be different persons, Kumaragupta of Sarnath may be taken as KG III and that of Bhitari Seal as KG III.

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Now we can say that Kumaragupta of Sarnath inscription (i.e. KG II) succeeded Purugupta in 475, and he in his turn was succeeded by his brother Budhagupta in 476 A.D. (the date known from his Sarnath insc.) The last date of Budhagupta is 494 A.D., known from his silver coins. Then follows the reign of another son of Purugupta, viz., Marasimhagupta. After him comes his son Kumaragupta III (known from Bhitari Seal) and then his grandson Visnugupta (known from Balanda Seal). For these three rulers we have no dates in our preent records.

Shar Copper-plate dated 188 ÷ 319 = 507 A.D. styles him simply Maharaja, which led some scholars to think him as a local ruler. The revised reading of the gold coins, which has been corrected as Vainyagupta for Candragupta, has now indicated his imperial status, because the privilege of issuing gold coins belonged only to imperial rulers. Moreover, a fragment of clay sealing from Malanda, which records him as Maharajadhiraja, has further confirmed this point.

Bhanugupta I From Eran Pillar Insc. dated A.D. 510, we get the A.D. 510 I mame of Bhanugupta. There he is described as "jagati pravirah" and "Partha-same-vikramah raja". The Guota-ending of his name connects him with the Gupta Royal Family. But the absence of an imperial title in that inscription and the non-existence of any other record in other parts of the country may make him a local Viceroy. Or if he is to be regarded as a sovereign ruler, then the division of the Gupta Empire may be presumed. Or thirdly, Bhanugupta might have been a younger brother of Vainyagupta, whom he succeeded on the throne after his death.

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In order to retain their independence, there unlors udget have evenobed at in flatslighten (vide linguisarys krideta : A.S.I. 7), but Francisune else the nexe of Engelable in old days. There being no other incication in a.F.I., the above identification is not cortain. We on the other land, might have attended then in Engelable.

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- 2. Vyaghraraja of Mahakantara, which was in the neighbourhood of Kosala, may be located on the upper coast of Mahanadi, extending from Baster and Jaipur State in Orissa.
- 5. Mantaraja of Korala (read Kerala), identified with Sonapur Dist. in C.P.
- 4. Mahendragiri of Pistapura, modern Pittapuram of Madras Presid. in the east Godavari District.
- 5. Svemidatta of Kauttura, a village in modern Canjam District.
- 6. Damana of Erandapalla. Fleet identifies it with Erandole in Khandesh Dist., but a copper-plate from Diddhantam says Erandapalla to be situated in a village near Chikapali.
- 7. Visnugopa of Kanci, modern Kanjivaram, 60 miles away from Madras, previously the Capital of the Pallavas.
- 8. Milaraja of Avamukta, mentioned in Hathigumpha cave insc. (2nd cent. B.C.), to be located in Malich District of the Philavas.
- 9. Hastivarman of Vengi, situated in the heart of Andhra, to be located in Piddavegi in Krishma Diatrict.
- 10. Ugrasena of Palakka. Smith says Palaghata (Coimbatore Distt.), more reasonably located in Palakada of Mellore Distt., mentioned in inscs. of Pallavas.
- 11. Kuberatof Devarastra: In Kasimkota plates of king Gangavarman, mention of Devarastra; presented in many plates lying in Kalinga; to be identified with Yellamanchilitalu of Vizagapattam Distt. on E. coast of Deccap.
- 12. Dhananjaya of Kusthalapura, modern Kuttalur in Madras Presidency.

 Semudragupta followed the policy of 'grahana-moksa' with the rulers of Daksinapatha, captured and released them, and made them feudatories.

 SECOND CAMPAIGN IN ARYAVARTA: It seems Nagasena, Acyuta and Kotakulaja allied themseves with the adjoining rulers and instigated them to rebel against Si. Si now changed his policy of 'grahana-moksa' and exterminated

A. Atavika-raja :

1. Rudradeva : by some identified with Rudragena I Vakataka, but
Rudradeva of A.P.I. was a ruler of Aryavarta, while Berar Vakatakas are
of Dakainapatha. Final identification undecided.

them vigorously and violently (prasabhoddhrta). He annexed their terri-

tories to his Empire, since there is no mention of their States. They

were the nine forest rulers who rebelled :-

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10. Transar of Fulcifin, dath says Estachate (Colstedore Dight.), more respectably leconed in Frigues of Follows Dight., remisoned in injure. of Follows.

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1. Madredove : by sore literated with Collector I Trianslas, but their states of a relative of a rel

- 2. Matila : He may be Mattila of a seal found in Bulandshahr in U.P.
- 3; Candravarman : May be the king of Susuria inscription in Bengal.
- 4. Canapatinaga : A Naga king of Mathura.
- 5. Nagasena: Of Naga family of Padmavati. Coins found at Padame Paware, Gualior State (ancient Padmavati, centre of Naga family).
- 6. Acyuta: Coins found in ancient Ahicchattra, modern Rammagar, Bareilly Dtatrict.
- 7. Nandi & Balaverma, 9. Nagadatta: No record, no information, no identification.

Then Samudragupta turned towards the tribal and Frontier States.

B. Five Frontier States (Pratyanta-mpati):

- 1. Samatata: Portion of Bengal, Districts of Faridpur, Barisar, and Moakhali; level land (sama-tata) of south Bengal.
- 2. Davaka : Some identify it with Dacca (on sound resemblance); but to be located in Kapelli valley in Nowgong Diat. of Assam. There is still a place called Daboka.
- 5. Kamarupa : Upper Assam. One of the Dist. of Assam is still called Kamarupa.
- 4. Nepala : Modern Nepal.

C. Nine Tribal States :

- 1. Malava: Known from pretty early times, identified with Malloi of Alexander's time, occupying Montgomery & Jhang; migrated to Ludhiana & Ferozepur, the region called Malwa; then reached Central India, established their republic there, coins bearing 'Malavanam jaya' found at Ujjayini, Avanti, Bhilsa. They were a brave fighting race; in Så's time they were probably in Mewar and adjoining regions of South-east Rajputana.
- 2 Arjunayanas: Mentioned by Panini (4th Cent. B.G.). Alarge number of coins found from Delhi, Agra, Mathura & Jaipur, most probably in SG's time they were here, between Bharatpur & E. Rajputana, somewhere near Jaipur.
- 3. Yaudheyas: Panini mentions them in Ayudha-jivi Sanghas. They were the glory of ancient India. Some coins bearing 'Jaya Yau-dheyanam' found from vill. Sumeta, near Ludhiana. A Yaudheya mint found at Khokharkota, village of Rohtak. Coins found from Ludhiana, Ambala, Shahabad, and Hissar, and Inscriptions from Vijayagarh. In the Rudradaman insc. represented as having warrior-like

A gramma with all of the form of the all the terms of mile ignal simple. To gold but ad the commenced : AND THE TO THE ALS A SECRETARY AS wishing to barn't amino. Lower and To - Diest and TO : and more . The State of the Control Francess, onthe of Senting I Acres : folge formi in creient Aided effet, tologo kentale. duction distant T. Market S. Marketter . To ready to a second and a defendance of the second of the se access validated in Latter wis abreach became asternational carl ((the production of the continued of the 1. Gratito : Portion of Porcel, Districts of Britary, re-. Level three to (abstracts) had I wol ; illerity 2. Sevele: 'Come intending the with Second toward to complete : her to be deeped in tagethe velley in lowers but of of but bere is cull a place orlied Debote. S. Menerope : Apper Aurea, the of the Dick, of Aurea is call called i, length a Madern Medal. britannia : Sero sey colean reitanger toer Villiader, but it see Counded by oth Mid than so you not see to the see to the ed in Cevical, Window, or lettern may to Markagoni, Charleston crost the . Jest aveila at himsers applications or averaged birt. are distinct, lawbrage is arabler limit, or State, the Legric . Language . Arment to commit extends to 1 solude Collect ont 1, legars : Steen drop overly bises, identified lith beiled of Monagher's time, contrading Month overy & Thene gard to inditions of bronspury the region called thing ; in reacted Central India, certablicied their republic tiere, coins berring 's cleverage force force of Uppering, avendi, Males, lier were breve digitalog rece ; in 30th time the core receipt in sever . of strong regions of forth-seas Rejections. Angresonies : entroned by trains (eth tent. 1.5.). Avere madel of coine form from Balti, Agre, Meaning Williams and a obeing in 90's the they were here, became theretains out, Betwhere, wanted want mentioner the leading by the land and the transfer of the land to a state of the land. ware the plong of anglest Italia. Some coing browing they have Margaria Louis Green ville stances, rear indicate. & Coulder . A. Link port here active, which to confide a state of the said the state of the same of the same of the state of the same of the

- nature. On their coins the legend 'jaya mantre-dharanam'. Their territory seems to be from Sutlej to Bharatpur and S. part of Bahawalpur State.
- 4. Madra: Modern district of Gujranuala, Sialkot, Sheikhupura and parts of Jammu; their Capital Sakala-desa i.e. Sialkot, between Ravi and Chenab.
 - 5. Abhira: In the neighbourhood of the region of Nasik in the west, known to Patenjali (200 B.C.) or mabe in C.I., a place Ahirawata between Bhilsa and Jhansi.
 - 6. Prarjuma: Mentioned in Kautilya's Arthagastra, but no evidence to locate them; may be located to the north of Bhilse, if it is mentioned in the record in geographical order.
 - 7. Sanakanika: In the neighbourhood of Bhilsa, Central India.
 - 8. Kaka: Kanakhera, Kakas were chiefs of Kanchi or Kapapura, a village near Bhilsa.
 - 9. Kheraparika: May be located in Damoha Dist. in C.P. in the neighbourhood of Mandagor Dist.

These tribal and Frontier States paid due homage and tax to SG. FOREIGN STATES:

Some independent and semi-independent States like Daivaputra-seri-

- 1. Deivaputra-schi-schanuschi : taken as one title, appears to refer to a Kusana Emperor.
- 2. Saka-Murunda: Murunda in Saka language means lord. Hence Sakalord. Sakas in western India (Bombay Presid., Ujjayini).
- 5. Simhala : Ceylon.
- 4. Serve-dvipe-vasibhih: May denote the islands of Indian Ocean,
 Bali. Java, Sumatra, etc. This influence laid the foundations
 of Greater India. Their relations with SG were such that they
 were ready to admoviedge his suzerainty by rendering to him
 all kinds of services. They paid different kinds of homage, e.g.,
 (i) atma-nivedana, (ii) kanyopayana-dana, (iii) Garutmadanka,
 sva-visaya-bhukti, sasana-yacana.
 - (i. Offering their own persons for service to the Emperor, ii. Presents of maidens --- most probably in marriage ---, and gift, iii. Applications for Charters bearing the Imperial Gupta Garuda seal by which they would be left undisturbed by the Emperor in the enjoyment of their respective territories).
- MOTE: 'Daivaputra-schi-schanuschi' were the three combined titles,
 first used by the great Kusana Emperors. 'Daivaputra', derived from
 Deva-putra. Some consider it to be of Chinese origin. All the Kusana
 rulers like Kaniska, luviska and Vasudeva I, use them in their insest

prest which the prest will be set to get and going which up to the second of the second of the second of all agrees the second of the s the are all odered district of ar increase, and its area included in provide of Segret ; their deal will release here i.e. Mailer, before W and our winds the nonprevious to benjored then all at a benjored . week, from to Witchill (800 . C.) or the in U.S., some the all has positive accountrie appropriate. o. Errjune . Landloned in couldn't in mercebre, bar no evilone The . There to desent of returned or the ; while all and or TO THE THE PROPERTY AND PROPERTY OF COMMITTEE TO The Manual of the Production of the Control of the I'm i kerelment, how were chlode of langer on Toperume, a and the rear matter. . Harrister : ter to looked as the set of the ter settle day reliciberationed of territrics Diet. of the bil organical bill reduce the fore of the fine of · ANTAR GOLLAN one independent and geni-independent deriver like oriver thre-celii, stiventhe-chi-menteria : therman, chier to being wine to . word in the state of the or to a series : "day not in this language come lord, a not be lor . When in western indic (locker for elf., Vielary, . refred a steriote . Service available to the desired one intended of Indian Veren. 121 June . Western, one The Influence left too fourtenance of tracker limits, their relations with the energy which where the ad naturation vid wintercome and schoolsbirles of phase on a off lines of condition, there well different binds to sent fin (1) etc: -mirriagn, (11) large of reas - fers, (11) denotes terle, . And by order of Lithing or may - org (1. organism that our person of account the three to the dies bus . . . walters ut thistory from ... another to other all ter a series of the Original and the Ligarian and the Ligarian Contact and the woman and his posturation find of bleon work folder of face the enjoyment of their remembles territories). sectate initiation accent and every this names - idea-sectage action : : court were by the greent treate Especials, 'societables', derived the the states. Here concludes it while of distance ordina, will be showed around which the transfer and another T, was then in their income

They were the Indian kings of foreign descent. The word 'Schi' is of
Persian origin, meaning 'royal', borrowed by Greeks, from Greeks by
Sakas. Used by Kaniska I and Kusans chiefs of Mienwali, Rawalpindi,
Attock and Kabul valley. 'Sahanusahi' is also from Persian Shahanushah.
Were Persian monarchs of Sahasani dynasty.

Seka-murunda, the lord of Sakas, of western India with their Capital at Ujjayini.

Simbala: Modern Ceylon. Si's relation with Ceylon is supported by literary evidence. The Chinese author relates that Meghavarna, king of Ceylon, sent to Si, an embassy and gifts coupled with a request that he might be permitted to build at Bodh Gaya, a monastry for the use of Ceylonese pilgrims.

- EXTENT OF EMPIRE: SG extended his kingdom over the whole of northern India, from E. Bengel up to the central Penjab in the west, included Bihar, Orissa, U.P., Madras Presid. as far as Kanchi, greater part of Central India and Rajputana. (Up to Narmada in S.)
- ADMINISTRATION: 1. North (Aryaverte), 9 forest rulers were exterrinated, their territories were annexed and were directly ruled by Semulragupta.
 - 2. South (Daksinapatha): 12 rulers were defeated, captured and liberated and were made feudatories.
 - 5. In east and west, 5 Frontier chiefs and 9 tribel States were made tributeries who paid tames, obeyed orders, and performed obeisance in person.
 - 4. Independent and somi-independent States recognized his authority and sought his favour by 'atma-nivedana, etc.'

Si did not crush the autonomy of some rulers, except of those of the north owing to their rebellious behaviour. But he centralized the administration of all provinces. In Frontier and Tribal areas, non-interference was a wise step, otherwise he would not have succeeded. The English also did so. Thus he made strong defensive line without much difficulty and labour. His was a modern type of administration. He had a great sense of diplomacy and statesmanship.

PERSONAL QUALITIES: 1. Diplomatic Statesmanship, 2. Martial spirit,
3. Impressive personality, 4. Robust health, (from coins),5. Scholar

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of veried accomplishments, 6. Patron of learning and of learned men,
7. Taste for music and fine arts, 8. Catholic nature. Allowed Maghato build a Buddhist monastry in his territory, 9. Liberal donor, 10.
Guardian of the poor and orphans, 11. Cirotsannasvamedhartta (on coins),
reviver of long neglected horse-sacrifice, or performer of the longdrawn horse-sacrifice, 12. In order to conform to the Hindi ideal of
Imperialism, he made IDig-vijaya' in the north, and 'Dharma-vijaya' in
the south, 13. Fit to be called Vikramaditya.

DATE: Accession; (a) If Welanda Cp.-pl. is a genuine record, and he is the founder of the Gupta Erc, then he might have ascended the throne in 320 A.D. (circa), (b) But if the founder of GE is CG I and Malanda Cop.-pl. is spurious, then CG I married shortly after his accession in A.D. 320 and SG must have ascended the throne in c. 350 A.D.

Last Date: A.D. 375 as the carliest date of his son CG II is 380 as his 5th regnal year.

INSCRIPTIONS :

- 1. Melanda Copper-plate (spurious) GE 5
- 2. Gaya Copper-plate (spurious) GE 9.
- 5. Allahabad Pillar Inscription.
- 4. Eran Stone Inscription.

Of them Nos. 1, 2 are certainly spurious, because (a) characters belong to 6th-7th cent., (b) indiscriminate use of 'va' and 'ba' which is not an early characteristic, (c) Asvanedha referred to in it could hardly have been celebrated before the 5th year of Si's reign, (d) Si never styled himself as 'Parama-Bhagavata', which, however, was the title of his successors. (e) the synthetical construction of the Gaya Cp.-pl. shows that the genealogy was copied from earlier records.

No. 3 has "...vyapta-nikhilevani-talam kirttim itas tridasapatibhavana-gamanavapta-lalita-sukha-vicaranam acaksana iva ..."

Fleet believed that this line refers to Samuiragupta as dead. But this record is not posthumous, because (a) this line actually refers to the king's fame as reaching heaven after pervading the whole earth.

(b) No mention is made of the Asvamedha sacrifice. Therefore it may have been issued before its performance.

No. 4 gives his wife's name as Datta.

other mercula in the pulsaries to perfect a The state for the series and dies the state of the state The storm of the state of the first tent of the state of description of the cost and ordered, it. Chrohestermentiaries for soin -the fact to remove a confidence candidate to tendered to tendered to find more experience, it, in order to confer to the Heat total of of 'man by severally has aftern with the Lagrange and your of a mailtainment definition of the first state of the state o - at the freeze artimos for the companies of (a) inchescol . The strike and hadroom was tolding of outs lind adopt out to retouch out of on the said to be to the to the the the the total to the total the al networks and reits without hatron I to make another all the recorded in . H. A rate with a secreted the forces over there is the rate A. A. local til te man ster to ster treetfers not to but it is not to both , roby Empoy did abi ec 1. Stones Comer Sare (genelous) (acceptance) of the composition of 5. Alle Willer Property Commissions. d. From Mone Ingert obton or than hos. 1, I are certainly specimen, hereway (1) consequent colour to the tan tent in the tent to the tent to the tent (i) and the tent of the tent is not an early ober elected, (a) havened in reserved to in it out at handly have been evidented bullet the but year of hale makes, () as dever shorted biredis to 'Maddis-Nagarda', which brinds worth with at the microsupper to the mutherial confunction of the August is ground test tions about the god many type living mid that such a low, to The believed that this this refer to Committee to the land to at tite record to not restigued as because (e) the life refigure record and to the bilay's deep of receiving better proved at the same with the control of (b) No semilion is not to of the fermiosity energine, Merecon it mus one nort instal leiche the ley ortene. in, A gives his wife's more to bette.

IDENTIFICATION: Kaca is known from gold coins bearing his name. He can neither be identified with: (1) Ghatotkaca, the granifather of Semulragupta, because he ruled over a small territory and did not conquer any kingdom, but the coins bear the title 'serva-rajocchetta'. Moreover, only the Imperial rulers have struck their gold coins, while Ghatotkaca possessed a small territory: nor with (2) Samulragupta because a secondary name was not put on the official documents and coins.

(3) Nost probably he was the elder brother of Samulragupta, who might have headed a rebellion against SC and captured the throne when SC was away to see his father CG I on the other bank of Ganga where CG died.

The inferior quality of his coins shows his hasty intrusion on to the throne. The epithet 'sarva-rajecchhetta' is an empty boast of a pretender.

continued to impossed with a (1) distributes, the grants that of sequinations, the impossed continued in the impossed continued to the continu

CANDRAGUPTA II

SUCCESSION: He was the son of Semudragupta from his chief queen Dattadevi. The Gupta inscriptions tell us of his relation with SG, but give no specific information about his immediate succession to the throne after Semudragupta.

RAMAGUPTA: CG may have been intervened by his elder brother Ramagupta, also whose name is/known from literary sources: (1) Devi-Candraguptam, a drama by Visakhadatta. Ramagupta was besieged by a Saka ruler who compelled him to surrender his beautiful queen Dhruwadevi to him. RG agreed. But CG, disguised as Dhruwadevi, killed the Saka ruler, and then killed RG, married Dhruwadevi. (2) Harsacaritam of Bana states "Para-kalatra-kamukam kamini-vesa-guptaas Candraguptah Saka-patim asatayat".

(3) Sankararya in his commentary on Harsacaritam gives details of the incident as found in Devi-Candraguptam. (4) Majma-ut-tawarikh describes the event like Devi-Candraguptam. (5) Rajasakhara (9th-10th cent) states the event but the name differs. He says it was Sarmagupta, which may have been a writer's mistake or the misreading of a copyist who confused the letters 'Ra' with 'Sar'.

Inscriptional evidence: (6) Sanjan plates of Amoghavarsa (871 A.D. state that a donor of Kaliyuga, who belonged to Gupta lineage, having killed his brother, spixed his kingdom and married his widow.

(7) Rastrakuta Gon of Grant of Covinda IV correspondents the literature.

(7) Rastrakuta Cop.pl. Grant of Govinda IV corroborates the literary evidence. Comparison drawn between Govinda IV and Sahasanka (i.e. CG II of Rajagekhara).

of SG, could have been reduced to such a helpless condition that he became ready to offer his queen like a coward. The occurence of Ramagupta' name in the inscriptions can be defended by saying that the inscs. give genealogical lists and not dynastic lists. Absence of his coins may be due to his short reign and the Saka invasion at the very outset. But there is no definite and positive evidence to regard him as a Gupta Emperor. It is marely based on probabilities.

INSCRIPTIONS OF CG II: (1) Mathura Pillar Insq., Regnal year 5, GE 61 (A.D. 380).

⁽²⁾ Udayagiri Cave Insc., GE 82 (A.D.401).

⁽³⁾ Gadhen Insc., GE 88 (A.D. 407).

⁽⁴⁾ Sanchi Stone Insc., GE 93 (A.D. 412).

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A 173) arraying and to go belong along plates of Arregiaver, a (7) and to that a douer of Fellywes, who belonged to Cupta lineage, having billed in a larginer, reised bile lineages; mi service bile billed in a larginer, reised bile lineages; mi serviced bile valou.

(7) Be statistic Cop. pl., Creat of Covinde IT corroborates the literary symbology, Comparison drawn between Covinde IV and Releaseding (1.0. Co. II.).

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- (5) Silver coins, GE 93 + X
- (6) Mehrauli Iron Pillar Inscription.
- (7) Basarh Clay Seals of Govindagupta (his son) and Dhruvasvemini (his queen).

IDENTIFICATION OF CANDRA OF METRAULI IRON PILLAR INSCRIPTION, DELHI

The inscription credits the king Candra with the following achievements:-

- (1) Conquest of Vanga country by battling a confederacy of foes.
- (2) Conquest of Vahlikas after crossing the 7 'mukhas' of Indus.
- (3) Spread of his fame, as a consequence, up to the southern sea.
- (4) Achievement of undisputed sole sovereignty by the prowess of his own arms.
- 1. CHANDRAGUPTA MAURYA?: It has been suggested that Candra of M.I.P.I. is Candragupta Maurya, because he also defeated Bahlikas and advanced as far as the ocean. But this much is not sufficient for the identification. Palaeographic evidence is against this identification, because the characters of the insc. belong to the 4th or 5th century A.D.
- 2. CHANDRAGUPTA I ?: Others identify him with Candragupta I, the creator of the Gupta empire, who must have been a man of such achievements. But (i) according to Purana, his dominion was restricted up to Saketa, Prayaga and Magadha: "Anugangam Prayagam ca Saketam Magadhams tatha—Etan jana-padam sarvam moksyamte Gupta-vemsajah". (ii) CG I, Therefore, did not come into clash with Bahlikas. (iii) CG I did not conquer Bengal, which otherwise would have been mentioned in the Allahabad Pillar Insc. On the other hand, SG is credited with the conquest of Bengal (Samatata, Davaka, Etc.) in the east, and Madras and Yawiheyas in the west.
- 5. SADACANDRA BHARASIVA OF MAGA FAMILY? This identification, too, is not possible, because (a) Sedacandra must have been ruling in East Malava in the times of Samudragupta or his father CG I. He could not reach Bengal without crossing Magadha. (b) Puranas make no mention of these exploits of Sadacandra. (c) Samudragupta, on the other hand, overthrew the Nagas in his northern campaign. How could the Nagas have acquired sole sovereignty?

X + 80 20 purios cavilia ((6) Islandi Fran Piner Ingaritan, inamporate in (no oil) bransfelved to plose valoriums (1) . (nome sid) TARTE TOUR DEPOSITE SO SEED SO DESCRIPTION -constitute particular and the reference of the month of the second second to requestion a prilated by vidence and to decument (1) when he indicated to the pulse or took a matches to decoupe (c) (d) Spaced of the Cere, i.e. consequence, up to the countries to o exmand one of the constant of the constant of the constant (1) into man series. is Generalization and the course of the course of the course of courses of

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- 4. CHANDRAVARMAN OF PUSKARANA: Harapreseda Sastri identified him with Candravarman, the ruler of Puskarana, son of Simhavarman, known from Sisumia Rock Insc. in Bengal. He took Puskarana to be a place of the same name in Jodhpur State, and identified Simhavarman with Simhavarman, father of Maraverman, mentioned in the Mandagor Ingc (A.D. 404) of Naravarman. The plausibility of the identity was based on the similarity of names and the fact that both the Mehrauli and Sisumia inscs. are Vaisnava records, bearing Visnu-cakra. But this identity has been set at naught by (i) the fact that Sisum. Inschassys nothing about any conquest made by Candravarman, and Mandasor Insc. makes Simhavarman a local ruler: (ii) A place called Pokharan (ancient Puskarana) has been discovered at Bankura, which is nearer to Sisunia Rock than Jodhpur. (iii) The insc. of Naravarman does not mention the name of Candravarman, who should have been his brother. (iv) How could Candravarman of Jodhpur reach Bengal without defeating the Guptas? (v) The Varman records of Mandasor make no reference to the achievements of the brother of Waravarman, whose name was Candravarman. (vi) The geographical position of Puskarana (Rajputana) and Sisumia Rock and Visnupada render the identification untenable.
- 5. CAMDRAGUETA II: He has been identified with Candragupta II, because : (i) The expressions both on the coins of Candragupta II and on Meh. Iron P. Pase, have striking resemblances, both having the abbreviated name Candra and making him a great Vaisnava. (ii) Palaeography is similar to the All. Pill. Insc., i.e., Brahmi of northern class of 5th cent. Though in many respects approximate to All. P. I., yet with marked 'matras' and horizontal top strokes, letters resembling most closely to Bilsad Insc. of KG I. Hence 5th. cent. A.D. overthrew the Sakas. He is, therefore, rightly called the creator of the Empire. His recently discovered Mathura Insc. shows that he was the first Gupta king who occupied Mathura, the last outpost and stronghold of Kusana power. (iv) Aspecific victory over Bahlika would have been necessary if CG II had wanted to finish the Kusana rule in India, and for this it was indeed necessary to wage a war over the whole of Sapta-(v) At the time of the accession of CG II there were court intrigues at the Capital (Ramagupta episode), which shook the Empire.

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His attention being diverted to the NW Kusanas, there was confusion in the Empire, in which the 'Pratyanta-mpatayah' in Bengal combined together and rebelled. CG II had therefore to quell the rebellion and conquered Bengal with the force of his arms. (vi) CG II's political influence in southern countries, suggested in the M.I.P.I., is a well established fact, as he made matrimonial alliances with the Vakatakas.

IS THE MEHRAULI INSCRIPTION POSTHUMOUS ?

From the following references in the MIPI with regard to Candra, it can be inferred that CG II died when this record was set up.

"Khinnasyeva visrjya gam narapater gam asritasyetaram, Murtya karma-jitavanim gatavatah kirtya sthitasya ksitau."

But the omission of any reference in MIPI to any conquest over the Sakas in Surastra leaves it doubtful whether the record was posthumous. He may have defeated the Sakas after the record was incised. If the record was really posthumous, the objection about the omission of his victory over the Sakas stands.

- compitions: Although SG made the far off Frontier States of the Sakas and Kusanas recognise his authority, yet they were looking out for a chance of becoming free. After the death of SG, the Frontier kingdoms in the NW, W, and E, seem to have begun to make violations, which CG II was able to suppress successfully,
- achievements: (1) The first verse implies that he overthrew a confederacy of Frontier kings in Bengal, who might have risen against him during the court intrigues at the Capital. Lion-slayer type of coins corroborate this. (2) He conquered Bahlikas after crossing the seven mouths (tributaries) of Sindhu, i.e., crossing the region of Saptasindhu, 'mukha' is technically the name of the junction of a river and the sea, Cf. 'Nadi-mukhana samuiram avisat' (Kalidasa). Or 'mukha' may be taken as tributary. Hence 'sapta-mukhani', the tributaries of Indus, implies the route taken by CG II to fight the Bahlikas, the name of Balakh, N. part of Afghanistan, called Bakhtar in modern Persian, and Bactria in Greek. In Mahabharata : "Pancanam Sindhu-sasthanam antaralesu ye sthitah Bahika nama te desa na tatra divasam vaset."

Therefore, it follows that people of the Panjab were meant, who lived between Sutlej and Indus. It may imply that people from Bactria had come down and Stilled in the Panjab. These were Kusanas, whom CG II

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- (3) He, then, started his campaign towards the SI parts :
- (1) "Krtsna-prthivi-jayarthene rajnaiveha sahagatah" (Udayagiri Rock Cave Insc. Of CG II) undated. This shows that CG II with his Minister for Peace and War, Virasena (also called Saba), went to Udayagiri (in Malava) to conquer the whole earth. (ii) Another insc. from the some place is dated A.D. 401, which implies that this part of the country (i.e. Malava and Ujjayini) was conquered some time before 401. It was already occupied by the Salas. On this score he was called Selari (iii) The numismatic evidence also corroborates the above view. The Ksatrapas were subdued by Samudragupta, and their coins became extinct (from 305-348 A.D.). But Sakas regained their power under Rudrasena II, whose coins re-appear from 348 to 378, bearing the title 'Mahaksatrapa' implying revival of their power under Rudrasena II, Rudrasena III and his successor Mahaksatrapa Svami Mahasana (c. 382, 384 A.D.). Then again their coins come to an end from 388 A.D. and are replaced by the Kusana type of coins of CG II with the legend 'Candra', dated GE 90 (A.D. 409). CG II must have struck the coins after he had established his full authority over the Saka territory firmly. Most probably the Ksatrapa king whom CG II defeated was Simhasens Mehaksatrapa. He attacked the Saka territory probably in 388 A.D. as their coins came to an end at that date.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS VICTORY OVER SAKAS IN SI :

- (i) He achieved political success by driving away the foreign domination and extending his Empire.
- (ii) Commercial and financial gains through trade from the ports of Gujerat and Kathiawad with Europe.
- (iii) Through trade Indians came in contact with western civilisation.
- (iv) To Roamn markets India exported silken articles, cotton thread, spices, precious stones, beautiful birds, etc., which brought a large quantity of gold into India.
 - (v) In his Natural History, Pliny complains of the lummies of Romans which drained gold to India.
- EXTENT: He conquered the whole of Malava province, Western Saka Ksatrapas, NW Kusanas and Bengal frontiers. His Empire extended from Bengal

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in the east, right up to Indus in the MM, and from Himalayas in the north up to S. India up to Kanci on the eastern coast and Surastra on the western coast. It included fertile provinces and important parts of Cambay, Ghogha, Verwal, Porebandar, Dwarka and Malava. He was justified in speaking of himself as "Praptena sva-bhujarjitam ca suciram caikadhirajyam kaitau", i.e., the sole sovereignty of the earth by the prowess of his own arms.

- MATRIMONIAL ALLIANCES: (1) He himself married Kuberenaga, of Naga femily.

 (2) He got his own daughter Prabhavati-gupta married to Rudrasena II of Vakataka family. These alliances were made purely with a political motive. The great Vakatakas could be much service to him as allies and terror to him as foes, owing to their geographical situation while dealing with the Ksatrapas. He got much help from them in subduing the Ksatrapas.
- ERONTIERS: (1) Maharaja Trikamala, known from Bodhisattve Image Insc. at Gaya, GE 64. (2) Svanidasa, ruler of Valkha (prob. C.I.) known from a land grant of GE 67. (3) Maharaja Sri Visvamitra Svami, known from a seal found at Besenagara.
- COINS: 1. Gold coins, 2. Silver coins, 5. Copper coins, 4. Dinara, 5, Suvernas, 6. Kauris. (Material)

Types: 1. Archer type indicating martial spirit. 2. Couch type showing artistic temperament. 3. Bowman type indicating bravery, 4. Chatra type revealing sole sovereignty, 5. Lion-slayer type representing his authority over Bengal, 6. Horseman type, etc., showing sportsmanship and other personal habits.

Legends: 1. Simhavikama, 2. Narendra-candra, 5. Rupakrti, 4. Vikramaditya, 5. Vikramanka, 6. Parama-bhagavata.

- ADMINISTRATION: Ministers: 1. Maharaja Sanakanika from Udayagiri Cave
 Insc. GE 82, must be the Governor of E. Maleva.
 - 2. Amrakarddava mentioned in Sanci Stone Insc., GE 93.
 - 3. Saba Virasena, from Pataliputra, minister of Peace & War, known from Udayagiri Cave Inscription.
 - 4. Sikharasvamin, Mentrin (Counsellor), known from Karmadanda St. Linga Inscription.
 - 5. Maharaja Sri Govindagupta s/o CG II, Governor of Tribhukti

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province, with Head Quarters at Vaisali, known from his seal.

6. Dhruvasvemini, Soal found at Vaisali.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES: Known from Seals found at Basarh (Vaisali) issued by Prince Govindagupta.

- 1. Kumaramatyadhikarana, office of the Prince's ministers.
- 2. Baladhikarana, office of the Head of the Army.
- 5. Ranabhandagaradhikarana, the military Exchaquer.
- 4. Dandapasadhikarana, office of the Chief of the Police.
- 5. Vaisali-adhisthanadhikarana, office of the District Officer of Vaisali.
- 6. Parisad, Municipality. Udanakupa city was ruled by Parisad. It means up to that time the tradition of Parisad remained intact.
- 7. Arya-sangha)) Governed Kakanadabota Mahavihara (monastery).
- 8. Panca-mandali) The Sangha operated as a Bank. 25 Dinaras were kept in the Bank for feeding 5 Bhiksus and burning a lamp.

 "Panca bhiksavo bhunjantam, ratna-grhe ca dipako jvalatu"

 (Sanci Stone Inscription, GE 95).

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS: 1. Yuvaraja, incharge of the administration.

- 2. Kumaramatya, performed different functions, attached to Yuvaraja as personal assistant, and incharge of the judicial departments.
- 3. Yuvaraja Kumaramatya Bhattaraka, Chief of Princes' ministers.
- 4. Vinaya-sura, Chief Censor.
- 5. Maha-pratihara, Chief Chamberlain.
- 6. Maha-Dandanayaka, Chief Justice, or Chief of the Forces.
- 7. Vinaya-sthiti-sthapaka, Minister of Law and Order.
- 8. Bhatasvapati, Head of the Infantry and Cavalry.
- 9. Uparika, Governor of a Province.

On the seals (10. Sri Parama-Bhattaraka-padiya, Chief Minister in waiting on king. of (Kumaramatyas (11. Yuvaraja-padiya, Chief Minister in waiting on the Crown Prince.

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS: 1. Desa, province, e.g., Sukuli desa.

- 2. Bhukti, province, e.g. Tira Bhukti.
- 3. Pradesa, Division, e.g. Airikina Pradesa.
- 4. Visaya, District, e.g.
- GUILDS: Called Nigamas, of different classes of economic interest, e.g.,
 Sresthis (Bankers), Sarthavahas (Traders), Kulikas (Merchants),
 These guilds functioned like Chambers of Commerce of modern days.

 Many seals issued jointly, e.g., Sresthi-sarthavaha-kulika-nigama, and
 Sresthi-kulika-nigama.

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- RELIGIONS: 1. Vaisnavism, title 'Parama-bhagavata', MIPI & Uday. Cav. Ins.
 - 2. Saivism, Udayagiri Cave and Mathura Inscriptions.
 - 5. Buddhism, Senci Inscription.

MINISTERS OF VARIOUS SECTS: 1. Amrakaraddaya, a Bauddha.

- 2. Saba Virasena, Sikhorasvemin: Saiva Government supported every sect for the uplift of the society is clear from the inscriptions.
- FAMILY: 1. Two wives: 1. Dhruwadevi, the Chief Queen, and 2. Kuberanaga.
 - ii. His sons: 1. Kumaragupta, 2. Govindagupta, and perhaps 3. Ghatotkacagupta born of Dhruvadevi.
 - iii. Daughters : Prabhavatigupta born of Kuberanaga.
- FA-HIEN'S ACCOUNT: Fa-Hien travelled over India from 405 to 411 A.D. He says: people of Northern India led a quite happy life; no need of Magistrates to settle disputes; though judicial departments were set up to the standard. Workers got good wages, and amenities of life to their liking and satisfaction. Officers and workers were honest and efficient; religious-minded; generally Jainas and Buddhists; Donors for earning religious merit. Land-lords were not oppressive; commodities were cheap. Reference only to copper coins and kauris.
- DATES: 1. Ascended the throne in A.D. 375; known from Mathura insc. dated GE 61 and Regnal Year 5 (A.D. 380). 61 + 319 5 = 375
 - 2. Attacked Sakas in A.D. 388, as indicated by (a) the absence of Saka coins from this year onwards, and (b) the appearance of coins of similar type (i.e. Kusana type) of CG II in A.D. 409, which he issued establishing himself firmly.
 - 3. Last date is GE 93 (A.D. 412-413), known from Senci Stone Insc., GE 93. He could not have ruled much longer, and his son was on the throne in GE 96 (A.D. 415-416) as known from Bilsad St. Pillar Insc., GE 96.

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GOVINDAGUPTA

SOURCE: Basarh Clay Seal of Dhruvasvamini, the Chief Queen of CG II,

reeds as follows: 1. Maharajadhiraja Sri Cardragupta-

2. patni Maharaja Sri Govindagupta-

3. mata Mahadevi Sri Dhru-

4. va svemini

This seal brought GG to light for the first time and revealed that he was also the son of GG II.

There are three possibilities with regard to the association of the name of Govindagupta with Dhruvasvamini in the seal, viz., (a) that he was the eldest son and heir-apparent, (b) though younger, he was her favourite, or (c) that he was identical with Kumaragupta.

But, he could not be identical with KG, because alternative names never occur on the official documents and seals. Bhandarkar suggests identity on the score of the letter 'go' on the coins of KG., but

(i) these coins of KG are 'suvarna' weight, i.e., 148 grains, the type issued

by Sk.G. for the first time. Before him (Sk.G.) up to KG I, coins were of Dinara type, i.e., 124 grains. So, these coins are of later KG.

(ii) The letter 'go' occurs also on the coins of Marasiniagupta Baladitya Hence the argument is not decisive.

As to (b) above, favouritism is a domestic affair and cannot be represented in purely official records. This seal is official, as it is found at Vaisali, a Provincial Capital, along with seals of other offi-

As to (a) above, seals of Yuvaraja also found from the same room. It indicates that Valsali was the seat of the Yuvaraja, who was acting as a Provincial Governor. Therefore Govindagupta may reasonably be taken as Yuvaraja. The mother, therefore must have felt pride in associating her name with the heir-apparent.

ASCENDED THE THRONE: No positive inscriptional evidence is available with regard to GG's accession to the throne. Indirect suggestion, however, may be had from Mandasor Insc., ME 524 (A.D. 467), after CG II, it eulogises GG in terms indicative of imperial status:

"Yasmin mrpair astemita-pratapais sirobhiralingita-pade-padmaih,
Vicara-dolam vibudhadhipo 'pi sanka-paritah semuparuroha."

It would only be at the feet of an imperial ruler that a host of kings would bow.

Terms of Allows : 1. Address of the property of the state of the state

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The anticology of the following to the through the trace of the state of the state

DATE: Govindagupta actually ascended the throne. His reign can be placed between CG's last date (412-13 A.D.) and KG I's first date (415-16 A.D.).

SEORT REIGN: Why so short a reign? He died (a) either a natural death, or (b) was killed in a fratricidal war between him and his younger brother Kumaragupta I. Tumain Insc. of KG, 116 GE hints at the second alternative;

"Sri-Candraguptasya Mahandra-kalpah Kumaraguptas tanapas semagran,
Raraksa sadhvim iva dharma-patnim viryagra-hastair upaguhya bhumin'
i.e. KG took hold of the throne by force, most probably from his brother
Govindagupta. And, --- there is most probably a covert reference to
KG I in Mandasor Insc. A.D. 467:

"Vicara-dolam Vibulhadhipo'pi sanka-paritah samuperuroha."

In it there may be a hint that KG was not faithfully disposed towards his brother GG., and becoming jealous, conspired against him.

Vibudhadhipa is Indra. Malendraditya is a 'biruda' of Kumaragupta I, found on his coins.

of mar colorado, receip off forquesa pliantes of contributed with their o'r of her t. s. a di sidy when Jose u too member bornes. Company to the contract of the contract of the contract the was the outer and any fallacedors a streets and (c) to . Ataes country breside Carragadte I. Turile less, of M. 146 or bires of the -payldarmodia bucca the property and appropriate the Later of realist and resident and the contract of and a running residual-error com mighty-are dispet months andered. i.s. W. teck local of the throne his done, more probably free the hereign of sometimes there a middle of the cold orders to come to the common to and it is not been also as a serie of the construction of the ", who were designed designed with the dislativisty mater-error was afference I among the properties from a no fit chall be and year or als the all the exotion of ... and coopering periods, community and the The leading to Taken, Telephorality to the collection of land of the collection of found on his coing.

- EVENTS: It is clear from his inscriptions ranging from 96 GE (415 A+D)

 Bilsed Stone Pillar Insc. to 128 GE (447-48 A.D.) Demodarpur and Beigram Copper-plate, that the Gupta Empire under KG I suffered no diminution.
 - 1. Bilsed insc. has "abhiverdhemana-vijaya-rajya", 1.e. 'reign of ever-extending victory'.
 - 2. Karmadarda Linga Insc. 117 GE (436 A.D.) has "catur-wiedhi-salilasvadita-yasah" -- 'the fame (of KG) being tasted by the waters of the four oceans'.
 - 5. Mandasor Stone Insc. of KG I & Bandhuverman, 493 ME (436 A+D+) has "Catus-seminimenta-villale-methodism Sumeru-Kailasa-brhat-payodharam, Vananta-vanta-sphuta-puspa-hasimim Kumaragupte prthivim prasasati." 'When Kumaragupta was reigning over the whole earth.'

 The other date 529 ME (472 A.D.) falls in the reign of the later Kumaragupta II, Therefore the latter part of the inscription refers to KG II.
 - 4. The find-places of his coins also prove that his inherited Empire remained intact. These places are Ahmedebad, Bhavanagar, Satara, Ellichpur, etc.
- PEACE & PROSPERITY: From his insc. and coins one can easily infer that his reign was peaceful and prosperous. There are no conflicts between KG I and other rival kings. People were devoted to social uplift and religious ceremonies. There was religious tolerance and each and every sect was free to preach its doctrines. His Bilsad insc. records the worship of Mahaswami Kartikeya; Mankawar Insc., that of Buldha; Mandasor, that of the Sun god; and Karmadanda, that of Siva.

Prosperity is indicated by his performance of Asvenedha sacrifice in commemoration of which he issued Asvenedha coins with the legend 'Asvanedha-parakramah'. It is a costly sacrifice. Abundance of gold coins also poits to the same conclusion. Moreover, Mandasor insc.

(A.D. 456 - 475) records that a guild of silk weavers migrated from the adjoining Lata (Surastra) country to Dasapura (Mandasor, C.I.), being attracted by the virtues of theking of the country - "desapathiva-gunapahrtāh".

in and the second and antiquest among the second and more and on the - tok the extract (.c.s. co -the) to one of .out zurite one Desired nove lover-date, the topic makes whire in I softered to Mri-. o. 1 . Parlor - minit to manufacture of fagur rolling . 1.0. . 'sycodoly mysher so-ware to maker' to be resident and (.1, 4 88) to the peak spill size beach a new profit to the said the case (on co) and out ... "Many mathematicina . farmence word old 20 5, Makener Stoney Jaco, of 30 il o Carlingerson, 400 on later - Polof- confidences to - administration of the polosing and first repolitance, Vincente-vanto-chiefe-crap-lecture - Tunnapate product '. Come minis and very grangine and object which are ". inter a very result rough and he can't eithat attol (, b, a his) he can work white his the distance of the parties of the landsquared all arough A. The first-places of the point clay prove that his heliculated in dry servinged independing of acceptance are Alexadebed, Wormstoner, Mahare allColpus, esc. Salar a record with the same and contract on a relative terms of the salar terms. his reign nos peccesul ani proporcia. Alego ere no centilo e love en The Filter Intole of before may offered, apaid forth well and estimione enteriore in a religione folderes enteriores enteriores good and area to present the dockelnos. Maddista inue, recorde ties - draff and list to dolly, over angular a sequileral persons bet a transear, that of the mar gody and Hermadau, that of five. recupertity in indicated by his parlements of Amonodia markities in consequention of which is investigated as soldie with the Report there are entered to to to a coolin encertion, blumberos of sold ording of to yelly be the green concluded. Personer, Person of the or time. court bedought everyon that he golded of althe weeners their was not a court for et. etjaining Lete (Armeten) country to designou (Mantester, 4.1.), water estreated by the while to deline of the country - " manof the galactic and a second of the second and the second of the second

There was a remarkable progress in the fields of fine arts, architecture, etc., as evidenced by fine specimens of coins and sculptures, and images of Jaina Tirthankares and Buddha at Mathura. In Mandasor insc. Dasapure is described as 'decorated with rows of storeyed mansions (prasada-mela) like the rows of serial chariots (vimena-mela) and with paintings (citra-karmani).

- LATER EVENTS: It seems that his glory suffered en eclipse in his leter days. (a) ABuddhist text tells us that Maherdra's kingdom was attacked by Yavanas, Pahlikas and Sakunas. This king Mahendra is certainly KG I, as he is represented on his coins as 'Mahendraditya'.
 - (b) The Bhitari Stone Pillar Insc. of his son and successor Sk.G. refers to the enemies prepared for conquest' (svehhimata-vijigisa-prodystanam paresam), to him as one 'who stabilized the shaking fortunes of the family' and 'spending the whole night on bare earth' (Vicalita-kula-laksmi-stambhanayadyatena, Ksiti-tala-sayaniya yena mita triyama).
 - (c) The enemies are specified as Pusyamitras with their resources of wealth and man-power (Samudita-bala-kosan Pusyamitrams on jitva).
 - (d) Other enemies were the Humas (Humair yasya samagatasya samare dorbhyam dhara kampita).
 - (e) Crown prince Sk. G. encountered these enemies, internal and external, and defected them.
 - (f) Due to stress on his treasury he issued silver currency in his later age. The coinage was not of pure silver, but were minted from silver-plated copper.
- dent up to the time of CG II, for there is no indication of Cupta sovereignty in the Mandasor inses, of Varran kings (e.g. Mandasor St. Insc. of Maravarman, 404 A.D.). But in Mandasor Insc. of Bandhawarman, (495 529 ME, A.D. 456 475) Dasapura appears as a feudatory state under the Imperial Cuptas for the first time. MG I must have, therefore, subdued Dasapura, but there is no clear reference to this fact in his records. It is just possible that his predecessor Gov. G. subdued this State. Asvemedha coins may also indicate his new conquest.

miche adre and to obtain our at mixion course to made was out to connected of a complain to a Milital for a restablished became because to some side between the trees of Inlies to ever sit of (township motio) agreement ter and the terms of and of employed at possible well all help are to di can estimate a terminal of that destroy of the destroy of the attacked by Newmer, Seldings out Edward. This Many Malendon. cordinately an I, on he is represented on his coing or libboning Lyne! (b) We Hade at Monagailler lines, of his con had everence Se., . -solution entering the concrete for concrete (exclinate entering enelysteram neurons, for him or one tyle ethalicach entit) hidean cond no dicir cioto all prilings, has tylical old long. tide - butte - beitend - pierelinenergeles teres . Keith-dele-marries perm mile . Courseles (a) The similed one mediated to Translation with their me some it to people open more that a library and the defeat to area signaturious sever mismil ; sanificati eser sourais mait? (b) Constant conto . C (2) Due to charge on bir breathry he instact letter age, The college was not of more alless, but were classed from especial formular , I, O no entered to eter, 10cm, est (e) dent up to the time of CC II. A: there is no indication of twite personal may in the Markegor installed Vergan dates (e.g., Tank of Manual and A. D. T. T. t. in ben'e for Theo. of Sendingers micr the Report I Augine for the Mare, At I and have, therefore entroped decours, but there are no dient reference to like fire the to his course, it is just possible that predecessor for, S. suited the processor for the contract the State, havered a column say the indicate his rev comment,

- EXTENT: KG I ruled over his inherited kingdom with the new addition of Dasapura State. His kingdom extended from Bengal (E), to Indus (W) and from Himalaya (N) to Surastre (SW) and Kanci (SE).
- GOVERNORS & FEUDATORIES:

 1. Ghatotkaca Gupta, mentioned in Tumain Insc.

 116 GE (A.D.435-36), was probably the son or brother of KG I, who

 over

 ruled over Malava with the jurisdiction/Tumbavana, about fifty

 miles from Eran.
 - 2. Ciratedatta, the Governor of Pundravardhana, known from Demodarapura Copper-plates, 128 GE (A.D. 447).
 - 5. Bandhuvarman, the feudatory ruler of Dasapure, is mentioned in Mandasor Stone Insc. 495 ME (A.D. 426).

ADMINISTRATION: 1. The Empire is described as girt by 4 oceans.

- 2. The king is styled as Parama-daivata, Parama-bhattaraka, Maha-rajadhiraja (Damodarapura Cop.-pl.).
- 3. Below the Emperor were feudatory rulers called 'mrpa, mrpati, parthiva, gopta.'
 - 4. The local kingdom was called 'desa'.
- 5. The Empire was divided for administrative purposes into provinces called 'bhuktis', sub-divided 'visaya'.
 - 6. The Provincial Governor was called 'Uperika-maharaja'.
 - 7. Under him was District officer or Magistrate 'visayapati'.
 - 8. District Head Quarters were called 'adhisthana'.
 - 9. District Office 'visayadhilærana'.
 - 10. District had a sub-division called 'vithi'.
 - 11. Officer incharge of a sub-division was 'Ayuktaka' (Kalaikuri ins.)
- 12. Princes served as Provincial Governors, e.g., Prince Ghatotkaca was Governor of Airikina-pradesa.
- 13. Visayapatis (District Officers or Magistrates) were appointed by the Uparika (Governor) with the formal sanction of the king, to whom the homage of both was due.
 - 14. There were Ministers in attendance on the Emperor at the Head Qrs
- 15. In the Dist. Hd. Qrs. (adhisthana) were located Dist. offices and courts (adhikarana). The Dist. Magistrate was associated and assisted in his administration (puroge samvyavaharati) with an advisory council of non-officials representing different interests of the locality, viz., (i) Mayor (Nagara-sresthi), (ii) Representative of

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Merchants' Guild (serthavaha), (iii) Chief of the Guild of Artisans (prathama-kulika), (iv) Chief of the Union of Scribes (prathama-kuyastha

16. The Staff of Sub-Divisional Office included Pustapala (Record-keeper), Kayastha (Scribes) and Kulika (Representative craftsman).

17. Transaction of Land formed an important part of the functions of the District Magistrates (Visayapati). Government gave facilities to private donors intending to make gifts of land for a religious or a charitable purpose. Such gifts were facilitated by a prescribed procedure. Ordinarily land could not be transferred without the permission of the Government. Its right was regulated by 'nivi-dharma' or 'upadakseya-nivi'. By it the religious or charitable purpose was to be promoted out of the income of the land-grants, so that the land could not be transferred or alienated in any way for profit.

The sanction was given on the reports of its officers, Pustapalas.

The sale price of land is also indicated. It was at the rate of 3 dinaras for 1 kulyavapa. Kulya = Kula, i.e. that amount of land which can be ploughed by two ploughs. Vapa is the area which is sown.

	Dagonn-			
	RECORDS:	1. Bilsed Stone Pillar Inscription	, GE 96	A+D+ 415 A.D.
		2. Gadhwa Stone Inscription	GE 96	A.D. 417 A.D
		3. Udayagiri Cave Inscription	GE 106	A.D. 425
		4. Dhanaidaha Copper-plate	GE 113	A.D. 432
		5. Mathura inscription	GE 113	A.D. 432
		6. Tumain Stone Inscription	GE 116	A.D. 435
		7. Karmadanda Stone Inscription	GE 117	
		8. Damodarapura Copper-plate	GE 124	A.D. 436
		9. Demoderapura Copper-plate		A.D. 443
			GE 128	A.D. 447
		10. Baigram Copper-plate	GE 128	A.D. 447
		11. Mankuwar Buddha Stone Image	GE 129	A.D. 448
		12. Mandasor Stone Insc. of Bandhu		
		varman and Kumaragupta I		A.D. 436

COINS: (a) Gold coins :-

(i) Archer type, (ii) Swordsman type, (iii) Asvamedha type, (iv) Horseman type, (v) Lion-slayer type, (vi) Tiger-slayer type, (vii) Peacock type, (viii) Pratapa-type, (ix) Elephant rider type.

(b) Silver coins :-

First Gupta silver coinage was inaugurated by CG II after his conquest of Western Ksatropes territories. Kumaragupta I-issued silver coins in great abundance.

(c) Copper coins.

TITLES: (a) Sri-Mahendra, (b) Asvemedha-Mahendra, (c) Ajita-Mahendra,

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(d) Simhe-Mahendra, (e) Sri-Mahendrasimha, (f) Mahendrakumara, (g) Simha-Vikrama, (h) Vyaghra-parakrama, (i) Sri-pratapa, (j) Mahendraditya

FAMILY: From the inscriptions of KG I, we know that -

- 1. his wife was Anantadevi, probably a Kadamba Princess,
- 2. he had two sons, Puragupta and Standagupta,
- 3. Purugupta was born of Anantadevi, Skendagupta was either her son or from another queen whose name is not mentioned in the records

4. Chatotkacagupta is said to be a third son of KG I, but no definite proof is available.

DATES: First 96 GE - A.D. 415 (Bilsed Stone Insc.)

Last 136 GE - A.D. 445 (Silver coins)

Fight with Pusyamitras and Hunas in the later years of his reign.

(a) appearance (b) and control (c) and control (c) Alternative (1) and the control (2) and the control (3) and the control of the co and deal ward of the land to another the land that the contraction of the land that the land t . no contro adjusted a protectory analogorica nor offic and a the had the cone, borningle the Manufacture. Takkio uma abruguitzia , irranimata 20 utoli can abrugurati, e winess and all hospitates that a local month month matters went to non-unit as and of the true fields a cited for his at afortone the feet an ediation at been armitel The state of the s (miles sentis) 25 5% . 25 6% . 5001 oh to summy world of all rough has negligible that Made

SKANDAGUPTA

ACCESSION: First date - Earliest date is 136 GE (A.D. 455) known

Junagadh Rock Insc. of his Governor Permedetta.

Last date - GE *148 (A.D. 467) known from his silver coins.

- MAR OF SUCCESSION?

 1. (a) Sk. G. a son and successor of KG I, known
 from Bhitari Pillar Inscription of Sk. G.
 - (b) Purugupta a son and successor of KG I, known from Bhitari Seel of KG II or III.
 (a)
 2./Both could not be identical, because:
 - (i) Not practice of putting second names on official documents. (ii) Similarity of coins bearing names of Sk. G. and PG, due to the decline of the Empire.
 - (b) For did they divide the Empire, because :
 - (i) St. G. was an all India Emperor. His records are found at several places in N. India incl. Bhitari, Nalanda, etc., (ii) The records of both are found at the same places and also those of the successors of Pu. G. Inscriptions of Bu. G. are found at Sarnath, Banaras, Eran, and west India.
 - 3. Hence Majumdar suggested war of succession.
 - (a) Omission of mother's mame in Bhitari St. Ins. implies that Sk.G. was not legitimate heir apparent, while there is mention of PG's mother as Mahadevi Anantadevi in Bhitari Seal Ins., making him legal successor.
 - (b) That Sk.G. got the throne from PG after war is hinted at in Jun. R. Ins. "Vyapetya sarvan manujendra-putranl Laksmih svayam yam varayamcakara" (1.5).
 - (c) and also in Bhitari St. P. Ins. "Vicalita-kula-laksnim stanbhanayodyatena, ..."

 The conflicted referred to here is between two brothers
 Sk.G. and PG.
 - But (a) the omission of Sk. G's mothers name proves nothing because the epigraphic practice on the point is not uniform. Or it may have been due to scribe's omission by mistake or to his enthusiasm to eulogize his patron and Sk's father without any digression.
 - (b) This verse does not refer to any fratricidal war. On the

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other hand it implies the previous practice of the selection of the heir-apparent on the basis of merit rather than of birth. The description is given in a poetic way.

- (c) Menace referred to in the Bhitari St. P. Ins. is not certainly from the sciens of the Guptas, but clearly from the feudatory rulers Pusyamitras and foreign invadors Humas. Cf. "Semulita-bala-kosan."
- 4. Sk.G. is the immediate successor, as (a) the last date of KG I on his coins is 156 GE (A.D. 455-56), (b) the earliest date of Sk.G. is also 136 GE (A.D. 455-56) on Jun. Rock Ins., and (c) nobody could intervene between KG I and Sk.G. Purugupta may have ascended the throne after Sk.G. Hence it follows that there was no war of succession.
- WAR AGAINST PUSYAMITRAS: Sk.G. began his martial activities as a Grown
 Prince in the later period of his father's life. These campaigns were
 completed in his own reign after the death of his father. Cf. "Pitari
 divam upete viplutam vamsa-laksnim, Sva-bhuja-bala-vijitarir yah pratisthapya bhuyah" (Bhitari 6).
- PUSHYAMITRAS: (a) Acc. to R.D. Bannerji, they were the first wave of the Hunas. But, as they had entered India for the first time, we cannot expect them to have Indianized name of Pusyamitras. Like Sakas (Azes, Azilises, Vonones), Kusanas (Wema, Kujula, Kaniska, Huviska), Hunas (Toramana) and Greeks (having legends on coins only in Greek for a long time before Indianizing them), they too must have had their foreign and original name, had they come from outside.
 - (b) Vismu Purana says that tribal kingdom of Pusyas was situated in Kosala, i.e., Eastern part of C.P., Chhatisgarh, Raipur and mountain Mekala near Orissa. The rulers of these regions might have formed a confederacy and have attacked the adjoining Gupta territory. They had a strong army, rich treasury and ample resources. St.C. conquered Pusyamitras who had gathered all their strength and resources. He had to strive hard to overpower his foes, so much so that he had to spend a whole night sleeping on bare ground (Bhitari St. P. Ins.).
- WAR WITH THE HUNAS: The original home of the Hunas was NW China. Under pressure they migrated to the west. One branch of them went to Europe, and came in clash with the Roman Empire. The other branch, called the White Hunas (Ephthalites) conquered the Onus valley and Gardhera, fought against Sessanlans of Persia, but were defeated. Then they

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moved towards India, where they met similar crushing defeat at the hands of Skandagupta. Afterwords they attacked Persia and defeated Piroz, the Sessanian king in 484 A.D. This encouraged them to proceed again to India.

- AATTHE-FIELD: Sk.G. must have fought with the Hunas in Western India, for (i) Jun. R. Ins. refers to blecchas "...prathayanti yasansi yasya ripavo 'pi ... Mleccha-desesu" (4). These Mlecchas must have been the Hunas, who are clearly mentioned in the Bhitari St. P. Ins. as conquered by Sk.G. "Hunair yasya semagatasya semare derbhyam dhara kampita".
 - (ii) Hunas were a great menace to the country. There was a danger of their repeated invasion. Hence Sk.G. took special plans in selecting a befitting Governor of Surastra. He found one in Parnadatta.
- TIME: The fight was very severe. By the year 141 GE (A.D.460) all these wers were over and perfect peace prevailed as indicated by:
 - (i) Kahaum St. P. Insc. Of Sk.G., 141 GE (A.D.460) "rajye ...
 Skandaguptasya sante, Verse ...". Sante does not mean the last year of
 his reign, as his silver coin bear the date 148 GE.
 - (ii) The later part of his Jun. R. Ins. (136, 137, 138 GE, 455-56-57) also gives an impression of peaceful times. Works of public welfare like the construction of tanks, etc., cannot be done under the stress of war.
- WAR WITH VAKATAKAS: Balaghata Cop.-pl. of Prthivisena II states

 Narendrasena (A.D. 435-470) as Kosela-Mekala-Malavadhipati. The Vakatakas were contesting Gupta overlordship in parts of western India.

 But Sk.G. set back the aggression. This gets confirmation from the
 fact that Prthivisena, son of Marendrasena, recovered the sunken fortune of his femily, after Sk.G.'s death, during RG's reign, as stated
 in the Vakataka records: "nimagna-vamsasyaddhartuh" and "KoselaMekala-Malavadhipatyabhyarcita-sasanah".
- EXTENT OF THE EMPIRE: He ruled over the whole of Northern India, from Kathigwar in the west, to Bengal in the east. Towards the west, the Empire included regions like Surastra, Carbay, Malaya and Gujrat.

 From Indus in the N W and Himalaya in the N up to Kanci in the south.
 - ADMINISTRATION: The empire was divided into Provinces under Governors.

 A Province was called 'dega, avent'; Covernor gopta (Parnedatta,

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gopta of Strastra); and the Dist. Officer, vigaya-pati (Sarvanaga, visayapati of Antarvedi). The administration of a visaya (Dist.) was carried on by officers put in charge of different departments, such as Agraharika (incharge of land-grants?), Saulkika (incharge of customs), Gaulmika (incharge of forests), etc., The cities were placed in charge of executive officers. Thus, Cakrapalita was Nagara-raksaka (Nayor) of Girinar. Sk. G. took great interest in the general administration of his country. He paid due attention to the defence of his frontiers. He was very partcular in the choice of good personnal for the administration of his country. He picked those who were honest and who took interest in the general uplift of the society. He took extraordinary care in selecting the Governor of Sarastra which was vulnerable to foreign invasion. For many days he thought and exercised his mind, and at last hit upon Parnadatta as the only man able to shoulder the burden of that administration.

- RELIGIONS: 1. Religious tolerance, 2. Philanthropy on the part of the public, 3. All religions flourished —— He was himself a Vaisnava (parama-bhagavata); Kahaum Insc., Jaina; Sculptures of Jaina Tirthan-haras, and donation to the temple of the Sun (Indor Cop.-pl.) for burning a lamp at might.
- economic compitions:

 (a) Due to stress of war, there was a heavy strain on his treasury, which is evident from his coins of inferior gold and silver.

 (b) In later times he reised the weight of coins from 124 gr. to 148 gr. and their standard from silver dinares to gold svarnas.

 (c) His silver and coppercoins were also in itse.

 (d) Only twotypes of gold coins, the Archer, and the king and queen (Leksni?) types are found.

 (e) Industry seems to have been organized inner greats or guilds (e.g. Tailika Sreni).

 (f) The guilds acted as Banks, donation of money to Guilds for public benefaction.

 (g) Interest in works of public welfare, like the construction and repairs to lakes. High skill in Engineering.

 (Gf. Construction and repairs to Suiarsana lake).

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- ACCESSION: He came to the throne, as an old man, after the death of his brother SkG. He was the son of Maharajadhiraja-sri-Kumaragupta (I) and queen Mahadevi (known from Bhitari Seal of KG III).
- from his silver coins) to A.D. 467 (being the last date of Sk.G. known and successor KG II, on Sernath Inscription).
- EVENTS: 1. He lost his western dimmins, i.e., (a) Malava and Central India, as is shown by the absence of coins. (b) His territory was restricted only to Bengal, Bihar, Eastern part of U.P., as his coins are only found in these regions. Coins are very few and are only of the Archer type. This suggests his short rule and straitened conditions.
 - 2. Cause of Fall: (a) Hunas might have captured IN parts of his Empire. (b) Vakatakas occupied the southern, western, SN parts of the Empire. Vakatakas under Marendrasena (A.D. 435-470) were contesting against the Gupta overlordship. Sk.G. sulued them. After his death, Prthivisena II s/o Marendrasena, recovered his sunken family forture, as stated in 'minagna -vamsasyoddharttuh', of him who raised and restored the sunken family. Also 'Kosala-Mekala-Malavadhipatyabhyarcita-sasana'. The time of Prthivisena II is 470-485.
- LITERARY REFERENCES: Paramertha in his "Vasubandhu" mentions that
 Vikrameditya sent his son Baladitya to Budhagupta. According to him,
 the Capital of PG can be located at Ayodhya.

Though PG lost a great part of his Empire, still he retained his title Sri-Vikrama on the analogy of Vikramaditya, as is known from his coins. Nalanda Clay Seal gives Narasimhagupta Baladitya as the son of RG.

Thus Vikramaditya of "Vasubandhu" may be Purugupta Sri-Vikrama.

Ayoghya was 'jaya-skandhavara', seat of Cuptas from the time of Samudragupta, as known from Gaya grant.

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KUMARAGUPTA II, KRAMADITYA

(Sarnath Inscription)

SUCCESSION: KG II is the immediate successor of PG. His earliest date is known from Sarnath Insc. on a stone image of Buildha, 154 GE (473)

- RECORDS: 1. Sarnath Buddha St. Image Ins., GE 154 (A.D. 473).
 - 2. Mandasor Ins. of Budhavarman & KG, ME 493, 529 (436, 472-73 A.D., the latter part being in the time of KG II).
 - 3. Khoh Cop.-pl. Ins. of Parivrajaka Maharaja Hastin, GE 156 (A.D. 475).

CONTENTS OF RECORDS: Sarnath insc. records the event in KG's reign.

Abhayamitra instals an image of Buddha at a place like Sarnath as a centre of Buddhism. KG himself was a Vaisnava, but like his predecessors, he too was tolerant of other religions which flourished under him. The insc. is Buddhistic in character and the image is fine specimen of art.

The first part of the Mandasor insc. and the date (ME 493) given therein refers to the reign of KG I. And the second part containing the date ME 529, falls certainly in the time of KG II. In the time of KG I, a guild of silk weavers migrated from Lata desa to Dasapura (Mandasor) in Melava (C.I.) and built a Sun-temple in A.D. 436. In A.D. 473, during KC II's reign, the same guild effected repairs to the temple. "Bahuna samatitena kalenanyais ca parthivaih - Vyasiryataika-deso sya bhavanasya tato 'dhuna." (36). Some translate it as 'A part of the temple was damaged by many kings', saying that the root /s being transitive, it should have an object which is 'ekadesa' here, and the subject is 'perthivaih'. From this they infer that the Hunas, who attacked India at that time, damaged the temple, because an Indian could not have done so. But, (i) Hunas did not achieve any success before 6th cent. A.D., particularly in this part of the country (Mandasor, C.I.). (ii) It is strange that one single invader could not have damaged one part of the temple, and it needed the effort of several kings to do so ! (iii) Humas were not opposed to Sun-worship. A Sun-temple was built during the reign of the Huma king Mihirakula. (iv) In Sanskrit we have many instances in which the root _sr is used intransitively, e.g., "Mirdhri sarva-lokasya visiryate vane 'thava". The usage is called 'kartr-karmani prayogah'. It is not necessary that this root should always be 'sakarmaka' (transitive). Hence kings cannot be the vanials.

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"As much time elapsed and many kings passed, one part of the temple fell into disrepair." Vyasiryata being used here intransitively, needs no object. Its subject is 'eka-desah' and not 'parthivaih' which is dependent for its elucidation 'atitema', i.e. 'somatiteir anyeis ca parthivaih'. Here 'anyeih' is also significant inasmuch as many kings passed but none of them came forth for the repair of the temple. The many kings that passed between A.D. 436 and 473 were : KG I (415-455), Sk.G. (455-467), and PG (467-473). Though the period of 36 years is not very long, but to the writer of the Prasasti it appeared so (bahuna kalena). Moreover, by the passing of three kings during this period, the period, though short, looked like a long period. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE INSCRIPTION: From the inscription we may infer that the political conditions prevailing during the reigns of Sk.G. and PG were such that they did not allow them or the guild of silk weavers to undertake the repairs of the temple. But under the reign of KG II, the guild found the conditions favourable for repairs to the temple. It follows, therefore, that KG II established a peaceful state of affairs once again in the country under his rule. Silk weavers resumed their industry and commercial activities, accumulated wealth and did the repair Thus, it can reasonably be inferred that KG II restored his lost family prestige.

FLEET'S INTERPRETATION :

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Hastin himself is described as a sovereign who had fewlatories of his own (pada-pindopajivinah), subsisting on homage to the Royal feet. EXPLANATION OF WORDS IN THE PLATE:

- 1. Sasana : Royal Charter of land grant :
- 2. Agrahara: The village given away in donation to a Brahmana (Cf. use in this sense by Kalidaga in Raghuvamsa).
- 5. Udranga: In Sasvata-kosa a tax, derived from ut—/r or from ut—/raj; nature of the tax not defined; must be corresponding to the usual share of the produce due to the State, which veried from time to time. In the Smrtis it is stated as one-sixth.
- 4. Uparikara: With Sanskrit 'upari' Prakrit 'upari' may be connected Marathi 'opari' meaning a tenant who has no proprietory right on the land, but is a mere tiller. Hence 'uparikara' means a tax levied on cultivators who do not own the land they cultivate. But this method of interpretation is not scientific, because we cannot say that Marathi 'opari' was used in the sense of Skt. 'upari'. It really means: upari something above. Hence uparikara a tax in addition to the main tax, surcharge or the super-tax of the modern times.
- 5. Acata-bhata-pravesya: 1. That which should not be visited by Regular (bhata) and Irregular (cata) troops. Their visit to the 'agraharas' was prohibited in order to maintain their sanctity and save the villagers from forced and burdensome taxation and contributions. But this interpretation is not reasonable. Bhata may mean Regular troops but 'cata' has no authority for its meaning as Irregular troops. Bhagwanlal translates the expression as meaning 'swindlers or thieves (cata)' and 'soldiers (bhata)' and treats the compound as 'catan prati bhatah' soldiers employed against the robbers, i.e. Policemen.

In ancient India am 'agrahara' was a holy place, so

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Policemen were prohibited from entering it. They were not allowed to disturb or harass it. Though this meaning of the expression has not found favour with many an epigraphist, it is so far the best one.

6. Cora-danda-varjam : (a) !with the exception of the fines imposed on thieves by the king. Whereas 'udranga' and 'uparikara! were assigned to the grantee, the fines imposed on thieves were preserved by the rulers. (b) The fines on thieves is the function of the judiciary and not of the Revenue Department. Therefore, in parting with the revenue of the village, transfer of judiciary or executive power could not be implied, and, the mention of the exception of fines on thieves could not arise at all. Therefore, 'cora-danda' may be translated not as fine imposed on thieves, but a tax imposed on villagers for protection against thieves. This can be compared with the present day 'chouldara' tax to meet the salary of the watchman. Hence 'cora-dands-varjam' means with the exception of tax for the protection of the village from thieves.'

THE TERRITORY: The territory of the Parivrajaka kings, known from the find spots of their copper-plates included Nagaudh, Ajayagarh, and Jaso States, situated in 18 forest kingdoms.

The first king was Susarman, who was religious minded, king and recluse. In one of the plates Susarman is called the sage Kapila and also 'catur/vidya-sthana'.

The dynasty commined the family of Gustinen, whose decement was Devodbya. Devadya's son-was Prabhanjana, his son was Demodera, his son was Hastin's son was Samksobha.

For Hastin we have dates ranging from 475-510 A.D. Taking a 100 years for four generations before Hastin, we may place the beginning of the dynasty at about 375 A.D., i.e. in the time of Semudragupta.

The expression "Gupta-mpa-rajya-bhuktau" in the plates shows that they were the feudatories of the Guptas.

One of the dates of Sanksobha is A.D. 528.

PURPOSE & METHOD OF MAKING LAND-GRANTS :

Purpose: (a) Religious merit, (b) Upkeep of temples, (c) Carrying on worship, (d) Effecting repairs, (e) Enabling Brahmanas to study the Vedas and perform sacrifices, (f) Because applauded in the Puranas, Smrtis and Epics as the best form of charity.

From very early times the Indian kings and landlords have been making land-grants. The villages granted were called 'agraharas' and were held in sanctity. Their protection was a subject of the foremost care of the State. This practice of land donations seems to have become

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very popular from Gupta times onwards, so we have a large number of land-grants from the 4th to the 12th century A.D.

Method: (a) The grants were recorded in Charters. (b) The Charters were drafted according to an established form, which had already become fixed by the time of Vajnavalkya. (c) They were written on a piece of cloth or engraved on copper-plates: 'Pate va tamra-patte va'.

Due to the perishable nature of the cloth, copper-plates were preferred. (d) Contents: i. Name of the ruling king with his genealogy, ii. Date of making the grant, iii. Name of the village or place granted and the demarcation of its boundaries, iv. Emmeration of the privileges to the grantee, (sodranga, soparikara, etc.), v. In the end verses from scriptures applicating the grant and consuring any interference with it. vi. Execution of the task was entrusted to the officer called Sandhivigrahika, vii. Grantees were not made the absolute rulers of the land, but only the revenues were assigned to them.

All the grants conform to these requirements.

GOID COINS: (a) Legend on the coins: "Maharajadhiraja-Sri-Kumaragupta,
Kramadityah" and "Kramadityah". This shows that he held the imperial
title.

(b) About 20 coins ascribed to Kumaragupta are preserved in the British and Indian Museums. There are only a few of the heavier type. It is not definite whether all these coins are of KG II, or they also include those of KG I and KG III.

DATES: First date --- 475 A.D. (From Sarnath Buddha Stone Image Insc. of his successor Budhagupta).

EXTENT: From Bengal to the eastern part of U.P., with Malava in the S.W.

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BUDHAGUPTA

Purnguyta

Kumaragupta II (475 Sarnath Ins. relation not mentioned - c. 476)

Budhagupta (476 Sar.B.S.Inge. - 494 Sil. coing) Relation in Malanda Clay Soci Nerasimhagupta (c. 495 - ?) Bhitari Seal of KG III gives relation

succession: KG's (II) date on his Sarnath Insc. is GE 154 (A.D. 475) and earlier date of Buildegupta is 157 GE (A.D. 476) on his Sarnath B.S. insc. Hence BG is the immediate successor of KG II. But his Sarnath B.S. Insc. and other inscs. do not give his genealogy, or his relation with the Guptas. Only his Malanda Clay Scalings give a complete genealogy, from the beginning up to BG and mention him as the son and successor of Purugupta. Bhitari Scal gives Marasimhagupta as the son and successor of PG. Therefore BG and MG are real brothers, and both of them the sons of Purugupts along with Kumaragupta II.

IMPERIAL STATUS? No title indicative of imperial status. Some inscs.

like his Sarnath B.S.I.Insc. simply reads 'Budhagupte prasageti'. But,

- (a) He is given the epithets of 'Parema-bhattaraka-Maharaja-Budhagupta' in Demodarpur Copper-plate. (b) He has Provincial Governors, such as Maharaja Surasmicandra of Malava, ruling the territory between Narmada and Kalindi, under EG (Eran Insc.). (c) Demodarpur Copper-plate also mentions his Governors in Pundravardhana-bhukti, as Brahmadatta and Jayadatta.
- FEUDATORY KINGS AND GOVERNORS:

 1. Brahmadatta and Jayadatta as Uparilamaharajas (Governors) of Fundravardhana-bhukti in Bengal, known from Damodarpur Copper-plates, A.D. 482 and undated respectively.
 - 2. Maharaja Surasmicandra: feudatory ruler of Maleva, the territory lying between Marmada and Kalindi, known from Eran St. P. Insc.

 (Under Surasmicandra was the Dist. Magistrate visayapati Maharaja Matrvisnu: Eran S.P.Ins.) (Under Jayadatta was Dist. Magist. in Kotivarsa visaya, Ayuktaka-sandaka: Damodar. C.P.).
 - 5. Parivrajaka Maharaja Mastin in Khoh Copper-plate grant (GE 165, A.D. 482) recognises Cupta overlordship.
- TERRITORY: In the East --- Pundravardhana in N. Bengal (Dam. Cop. Pl.)

IX simplement . D I William Brail (ero ng. color) (ero color) (ero color) (ero color) signa Habariki .men for roldsfor CL ON THE LOW STREET Coldator sorts 100 march A stranger office (270 A) of the value of the parties and address has inco. There is in the reselected encount of it it. the annual They are object times, the rest give of execution, or the relation with the Capitan, willy his Milesia May Maliage dwg a complete correlace. the most community to the most residient that he are the sent the contract of the contract of the most contract of The pools bearing alter departments and combined freehold, and process of the state to the deal that a send took the too the feet of the send of the took of the The adaptive of the analysis of the angle of PARTIES INC. No. of the Contractive of Appendix states again, Store Space. Manager in the Secondary of the Control of the Cont residence of the contract of a property to a state of a second of the contract of all (a) water to design the design to to the report of the law the law to the corn, such as interest includes on the test of the continue to the continue to between terred tel feldett, tuder il (for inte.). . (c) Beneditates local walking of a restriction like the areas of a state was a few at a Addended the addendard AND THE PERSON AND THE PERSON OF THE PERSON which (Coverney, 6: Smirramilant line in the speciment) appared Benedictive de amplite, 1,1,100 and control and control . Milegraph Mary Licensine : Seriology and or of black , the bounds tory lying between hermedt and latinest, heden wice from M. F. tors. (Thirty servery day the thirt, Wellstrake -- viewell in the land al the Windshift of aprendiction of the contract of the contract of the contract of Software view, appreliamentalist a marches, S. S. F. the second and a remove to the second second and a second second as a second se

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In the West --- Malaya (Eran St. Pil. Insc.).

In the South --- Kelindi.

In the North --- Ganga.

It included Banaras -- Sarnath B.S.I.Ins., and for Central India he issued gold coins. He kept his inherited kingdom intact.

ADMINISTRATION: Provinces ruled by Governors and Feudatories who were belped in the administration by the Deputy Governors.

Damodarpur Cop.-pl. --- The District Megistrate (visayapati) was helped in administration by an Advisory Council of four members representatives of different interests of the locality, viz., 1. Nagarasresthi -- President of the Chamber of Commerce (named Dhrtipala).

- 2. Frathsma-kulika -- Foremen of the Guild of Artisens (Dirtimitra),
- 3. Sarthavaha -- Representative of Merchants of the city (Bandhumitra),
- 4. Frathams-kayastha -- Chief Secretary to Administrative Council (Sembapala).

Transfer of land and sale of land were regulated by the State. The Copper-plate grants give the administrative machinery and procedure for grants of land for public purposes, charitable and religious endouments, etc. was to submit an application for it. The land to be granted should not cause any loss of Revenue to the State. Accordingly, such land is required to be: (a) aprada — not yet settled, (b) aprahata — not yet cultivated, or (c) khila-keetra — no man's land.

The customary price stated in the inscriptions is at the rate of 3 Dinaras for each 'kulyavapa', which means the area of land on which one kulya of seeds can be sown, (one kulya weighing 8 Dronas).

The grant of the applied for land by the Government depended upon the recommendations of a Committee of three local Record-keepers, called Pustapalas. The purpose for which the land was granted was usually the performance of daily sacrifices, etc. by the Brahmanas.

Provincial Covernor, Uperika Mahareja, was assisted by a council of local non-officials: (1) Mahattara-s, (2) Asta-kuladhikarana-s, (3) Gramika-s, and (4) Kutumbina-s.

COINS: Buildagupta issued gilver coinage of Central India type, with his own name and with his title as 'avanipati'.

Bhargar hoard of coins bearing the name of Prakagaditya and a letter 3 under the image of the king. The 'Manju-sri-mula-kalpa' states that

to the the state of the state of the . North and shoot out at STATE --- CITED WITH THE with female to the . of the Afficial - among tolerion ti e Louise delle colone, le lagt ale l'inertical himpeter langet. release in the orthographen by the femily heverence. Reconstruct Cor., ed. the District to the Coleman (viewnall) was more of the control to thousand granited as the notice that the st. Logical - words it ... it control to attend the could be acted the could be could b . MEN ENTER BOTTON OF TOTAL OF TOTAL OF TO CHARLES ... INC. TO . (ordered below) are sized at the delice of the number .. estimate and the contract And invalid ... Domental State of the algorithm of the city (Company) ... their science in the of weathers lated -- wile againment of of . chart of his of history or any least to often be that to reference were save that resulting without also to be a print a broom at all with a enter of a real of relative as a state of our of a real of the the state and order at level to the the sector for the sector for the sector. land to required to be to (c) equals -- and got developer at horizon correction of tally a colliders, etc. by the the contrators the state of the second of the state of the second of the (a) the manufacture of a (a) the anticontent (b) a state of the content of the co Sriman 3 succeeded NG II. As BG succeeded NG II, therefore Sriman 3, Prakasaditya, and Budhagupta are one end the same person. So the coins of Prakasaditya are of Budhagupta.

INDICATIONS OF DECLINE: Though BG exercised his sway over the whole of his inherited empire of northern India, it is obvious that the Cupta power and prestige was on its decline. The Feudatories Maitrakas and Parivrajakas mention the Guptas in vague terms. Governors of Maleya and Bengal, called only 'uparika' in the time of KG I, were now called 'Maharaja'.

DATES: First date GE 157 (A.D. 476), known from Sernath B.S.I.Insc.
Last date GE 175 (A.D. 484), known from his gilver coins.

RECORDS :	1. Sarnath Buddha Stone Image Inscription	A.D. 476
	2, Paharpur Copper-plate	A.D. 478
	3. Demoderpur Copper-plate	A.D. 482
	4. Demodarpur Copper-plate	COLUMN TO THE REAL PROPERTY AND ADDRESS OF THE PARTY AND ADDRESS OF THE
	5. Eran Filler Insc.	. A.D. 484
	6. Nalanda Clay Seal	

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NARASIMHAGUPTA (BĀLĀDITYA)

- SUCCESSION: Son of Purugupta and Candradevi (read by Fleet as Vatsedevi; by H.Sastri as Vainyadevi; by Chakravarti as Candradevi) in Bhitari Seal of Kumaragupta III. He is known from the same Seal. He was the brother of Budhagupta whose Nalanda Clay Seal describes BC as son of PG. Succeeded BG in A.D. 495 (BG's last date being A.D. 494).
- COINS: Title 'Baladitya' on some gold coins. The large number of heavier type of gold coins proves the truth of Arya-manju-sri-mula-kalpa,
 that Baladitya's Empire was 'nis-sapatna and akantaka', i.e. without
 rivals and foes. He issued no silver coins.
- Yuan Chwang (629 A.D.) in his detailed account of India wrote that the tyrant Nihirakula invaded Magadha and was defeated by king Baladitya, who, like a Buddhist, did not kill him but released him. But the date of Nihirakula, determined on epigraphic grounds, is A.D. 532 and the reign of NG (in A.D. 495) cannot be stretched to that length. The name of Baladitya's son and successor given by Yuan Chwang is Vajra, while Bhitari Seal gives Kumaragupta. The statement of Yuan Chwang is, in its very nature, vague and based on legends and hearsay.
- RECORDS: 1. Bhitari Seal of Kumaragupta III
 - 2. Nalanda Seal of Narasimhagupta.

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VAINYAGUPTA

- SOURCE: (a) Known from Gunaigher Copper-plate Inscription, GE 188

 (A.D. 507), stated as 'Mahadeve-padamulhyato Maharaja-gri Vainyaguptah'

 Gunaighar is in Tipperah Distt., in Bengal.
 - (b) Nalanda Clay Seal describes him as Maharajadhiraja.
 - (c) Gold coins of Archer type, with Garuda symbol. Allan wrongly read the name as Candra on these coins. This would need the addition of another Candragupta (III ?) to the list, a name not known from other sources, whereas the name Vainya is attested by epigraphic evidence.

- (i) His gold coins with Garage indicate his Vaisnava faith.

 (ii) Religion of a monarch is principle of indicate his Vaisnava faith.
- Engal as indicated by his epithet 'Maharaja' in Gunaighar Cop.-plate.

 But, (i) If he was a local ruler of Bengal, his clay seals could not been found at Malanda. (ii) On the other hand, he is proved to be an Emperor, because Gunai. Cop.pl. states Vijayasena as his Viceroy and Rulradatta as his vassal or feudatory king. (iii) He issued gold coins which was the privilege of an Imperial ruler. (iv) Malanda Clay Seal calls him as 'Maharajadhiraja'. (v) The epithet 'Maharaja' only on Gun. C.P. may be a slip on the part of the scribe. KG I is also described as only 'Maharaja' in Mankawar Image Inscription, and Si too as 'Maharaja' in Riddhapur plates.

RELIGIONS : Saivism : Gunaighar Copper-plate.

Vaisnavism : Gold coins.

Buddhism: Vainyagupta seems to the first monarch donating a piece of land for the maintenance of a Buddhist Vihara (Gum. C.Pl.)

ADMINISTRATION: Gumaighar Copper Plate:

Provincial administration through Viceroys and Kumaramatyas, viz.,

'Sri-maha-samanta-maharaja-Vijayasena'. Vijayasena held several offices
such as 'Dutaka' (Messenger), 'Maha-pratihara' (High Chemberlain,

'Maha-pilu-pati

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'Maha-pilu-pati' (Commander of Elephant Forces), 'Pancadhikaranoparika' (President of the Board of 5 administrative offices), 'Patyuparika' (Chief Officer of Accounts Department), 'Pur-paloparika' (President of the Board of City Mayors or Chief Police Officer).

Kumaramatyas, incharge of certain Visayas, were under Viceroys.

Dutaka was a superior officer to Kumaramatya.

Sandhi-vigrahadrikarana was the Minister for Peace and War, viz., Kayastha Naradatta, the scribe of the Gunaighar Copper Plate.

The old practice of administration was kept up from the time of Kumaragupta I up to his time.

RECORDS: 1. Gunsighar Copper plate, dated A.D. 507.

2. Nalanda Seal.

DATE: Gunaighar Copper Plate, GE 188 (A.D. 507).

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BHANUGUPTA

SOURCE: Eran Stone Pillar Insc. of the time of Bhanugupta, GE 191 (A+D+ 510)

RELATION: Neither genealogy nor parentage mentioned in any record, but the ending (-gupta) to his name indicates that he was related with the Guptas.

STATUS: The insc. describes him only as 'raja mahan' -- a mighty king;

'jagati pravirah' -- a great hero in the world; and 'Partha-gamah'

equal to Arjuna (in bravery). No Imperial title (like 'maharajadhiraja')

is attached to him, not even 'maharaja'.

As regards the position of Bhanugupta in the Cupta dynasty, we may assume that: (a) Either he was a Viceroy of the Melava (Eran) during the time of the Emperor Vainyagupta, and fought the battle of Eran with Hunas, on behalf of his Emperor ruler Vainyagupta.

- (b) Or he was an Imperial sovereign ruling over Eran (Malava) contemporaneously with Vainyagupta. In the latter case, the division of the Gupta Empire must be presumed, viz., Eastern region as far as Nalanda ruled by Vainyagupta, and Western region (Malava) ruled by Bhanugupta.
- (c) In any case, Bhanugupta cannot be the successor of VG on the Gupta throne in Magadha, on the score of chronological difficulties.

a flagstaff at Eran in GE 165 (A.D. 484) in the time of Builbagupta (Eran Stone Pillar Insc. of Budhagupta, GE 165)

Dhanyavismu, again, erected a Vismu temple with Varaha image at Eran during the 1st regnal year of Toramana, the Huma king (Eran Stone Boar Insc. of Toramana, Regnal year 1).

This implies change of rulers within one generation, at least in this part (C.I.) of the Empire.

FIGHT WITH THE HUNAS: He fought with the Hunas either as an Imperial ruler (sovereign), or, being a Governor, on behalf of his Imperial ruler Vainyagupta. Eran St. Pill. Ins. of Bhanugupta, GE 191 (A.D. 510), tells us that BG, along with Goparaja fought at Eran fierce and famous battle. Goparaja was killed in the battle-field and was followed by his wife on his funeral pyre.

It is tempting to success

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This gets some confirmation from Dhanyavismu's Eran Stone Boar Insc.
bearing the date in Toramana's regnal year 1. Guptas, thus, lost Malawa.
RECORDS:

Eran Stone Piller Insc. of Dhanyavisnu, A.D. 510.

DATE: A.D. 510 (Eran Stone Pillar Insc. of Dhanyavismu).

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MAITRAKAS OF VALABRI

- WHO WERE THE MAITRAKAS? (A) Some scholars have mistaken them for foreign people. Their view is based on the interpretation of an expression occurring in their records: "Prasabha-pranatāmitrānām Maitra-kānām atula-bala-sapatna-mandalabhoga-samsekte-samprahāra-sate-labdha-pratāpah..... Bhatārkkah", which they construe as 'atulam balam tesām te atula-balāh, te sapatnāh, tesām prasabha-pranatāmitrānām Maitrakānām mandalabhogah, tasmin samsakta-samprahara-saten labdhah pratapah yena, sa Bhatarkkah. i.e. Bhatarkka bowed down forcibly his enemies who were Maitrakas. Keilhorn emphasises the point by saying that there is no word like 'kule' or 'vamse' to connect 'Maitrakanam' with Bhatarkkah. Therefore Maitrakanam should be taken with sapatnanam.
- BUT: (a) The interpretation is open to grammatical objection that a Bahuvrihi compound cannot be interpreted in this manner.
 - (b) In order to connect Maitrakanam with Bhatarkkah, it is not necessary to have the word 'vamse' or 'kule', e.g. Vakatakanam

 Therefore Maitrakanam should be connected with Bhatarkkah, viz.,

 "Maitrakanam Bhatarkkah", i.e., "Maitrakanam kule Bhatarkkah".
 - (B) The other argument for their foreign origin is; Their family name 'Maitraka' is derived from Mitra, the Sun. Therefore they must have been the Sun-worshipping people of Persia, who came to India with the Hunas.
- BUT: The Maitraka kings were usually the worshippers of Siva. Only one ruler out of a 100 kings is described as 'paramaditya-bhakta', and even he is not the first ruler. First seven of these kings are styled as 'parama-Mahesvara'.

It is difficult to understand the significance of their style "
"Maitraka". It is doubtful if the word is connected with Maitreyaka,
which means a worshipper in a Buddhistic temple, or is the designation
of bards born of a Kastriya father and Vaisya mother. Anyway, Bhatarkka
of Valabhi is styled as 'Maitraka'.

HOW DID THEY COME TO BE ESTABLISHED?

About a hundred available

records of the dynasty supply the dates ranging from Gupta-Velabhi

Era 183 to 447 (A.D. 502 to 766). From the beginning up to Dharasens [V]

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the kings bear the title 'Maharaja' or some other title of feudatory position, but no title of Imperial rank. It has been held that the Maitralm kings revolted against the Guptas and established a separate kingdom of their own.

- BUT: this appears to be incorrect, for the third ruler of the dynasty, Dronasimha, describes himself as one whose anointment to the throne had been performed by the Imperial lord himself, who was the master of various regions: "Akhila-bhuwana-mandalaika-svemina parama-svemina svayam upahita-rajyabhisekah". This shows that the Maitrakas attained the high position through peaceful means and by the consent of their Imperial lord, whom they owed their allegiance.
- WHO COULD RE THE IMPERIAL LORD? The earliest date of Dronagimha is 183

 (A.D. 502) i.e., the beginning of the 6th cent. At the close of the

 5th and beginning of the 6th cent., the honour of being described as
 an Imperial lord (i.e. power) can be shared by three different families,

 (1) Guptas: Vainyagupta, Maharajadhiraja (A.D. 507).
 - (2) Hunas: In 510 Guptas lost Malava, when Toramana established himself in Malava (according to Eran Boar Inscription).
 - (3) Yasodharman: He conquered Varman kings in A.D. 532 and became a 'samrat'. He might have risen to power near about A.D. 502.
- EXAMINATION OF THE ABOVE: (2) Hunas: In the territories which passed into the hands of the Hunas, the use of GE was given up, as the Eran St. Pil. Ins. of Metrvismu and Dhenyavismu ia dated in GE 165 (Budhagupta's reign), but (a) another Eran St. Poar Insc. of Dhanyavismu in the time of Hunas is not dated in GE, but in the Regnal Year of Toramana (b) Gwalior Insc. of Mihirakula bears the Regnal Year of Mihirakula. It may, therefore, be inferred that in the territories of the Hunas, the use of GE was discarded.

On the other hand, the Maitraka grants are dated in GE. It is, therefore, clear that the authority of the Humas had not penetrated Seurastra at that time.

(3) Yazodharman : (1) In his time the Guptas and Humas had disappeared. They are assigned to the past. (ii) Guptas were contesting a claim to the suzerainty of/India at least up to A.D. 510. Bhanugupta fought a battle at Eran in 510, most probably with the Humas. Yasodharman must be subsequent to A.D. 510. He might have started his

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career earlier as a ruler of Dasapura, but he could not have established himself as an Imperial ruler before A.D. 510. (111) Toramana captured Eran (Malava) in A.D. 510. One year for Toramana and 15 years for Mihirakula: the Humas must have, therefore, been in power in N. India up to A.D. 526. And the suzerainty of Yasodharman must be after that date, whereas the date of Dronasimha is A.D. 502.

THEREFORE, (1) it would have been a Gupta ruler who performed the 'rajya-bhiseka' of Dronasimha in A.D. 502. In all likelihood he was Vainya-gupta, because his record bears the date A.D. 507 and the date of his predecessor Budhagupta is A.D. 495.

Hence the Maitrakas attained to power, not by rebellion, but by peaceful methods. They gradually strengthened their authority in Surastra.

CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH MAITRAKAS CAME TO HE ESTABLISHED:

(1) In Jun. R. Ins. Skardagupta is described as having fought with the Mlecchas, who were certainly Hunas as is indicated by his Bhiteri St. Pil. Ins. (2) He is further described there as being very anxious to select a Governor, competent to manage Surastra, and prevent the possible repetition of a foreign invasion. Like Sakas, the invader must have come from Persia, Sistan, through Bolan Pass to Western India. Sk.G. was therefore taking precautionary measures by searching for a capable officers for civil and military administration.

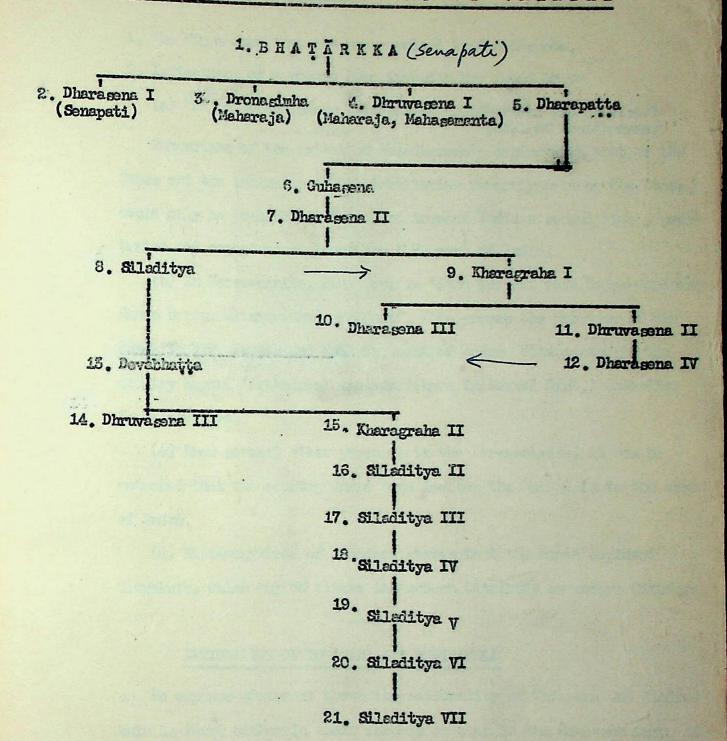
Parmadatta was appointed as the Governor of Surastra to look after the civil administration and we may conjecture that the defence forces were under the charge of Senapati Bhatarkka. In him course of time, Guptas, being pleased with Bhatarkka, invested him with both civil and military administration. These offices were hereditary in those days. By the time of the third generation (Dronasimha), Gupta Emperor felt that these faithful officers should be consecrated formally.

So by this wise step he tried to win their good will, because at that time the position of the Guptas was weakening. Under these circumstances, the Maitrakas were made the tutelary rulers of Valabhi.

The Maitrakas started first as generals (senapati), then Governors, and in course of time they became feudatory rulers.

delicated and for three of the land of the continue of the con realizable to on Engelia to the A. C. and Committee and Co tog at the account the same one for the ex (overfile) and bourhan for this winds ? We street the time that there is now a long to be entire of the something of the relationship of the 200 C. And on what . We do an adversary to seek out a localet point built and not all appropriate oder matery about a month over Atyon 22 (1) (SHAME OF -secular was of breeff rest file of . Wil E. a. a. a. a. integrated to false the and to east one fero the . . . a stab size arrest theorem and engaged Tel of hear length of reseasonber the had maintained to you make of the highest performances areal, al William to The Second where the house the contract of the c arigur C a breathants by the state of th (1) In the . I. The . William of the Committee of Lating Science with imposed with the conviction of an except afficiently one of the constituent en ell. Min. (2) Ve is Martin Marchine Lide of the policy of the sentence to calcula a horasper, corrected to simply they and, and present the possible sopetition of a foreign appoint the care, the Y was anish have own about through the term being the to declare the St. 9. was bloss force to law since the particle of contract one for the law law and the l contraction william for Livin religions the affordation formered the one of chited of the therefore of firmers in 200, atour next wifes the charge of Manually Manually, as her outer or at a Commission of the property of the formatter of the property of and religious services tions, tions serve town town in these deep. If the time of the third generation (Broncalries), Capit Space . Allowed the consequence of hills of contains and the contract of the contrac to by the view they be taked to sen their view will, back so up of the time the applitude of the region was equivalent and the mailting of the other Company of the second s Market and the same of a factories as death the costs and desired and to halve you have been thought in protein at the

GENEALOGY OF MAITRAKAS OF VALABHI



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HUMAS

- 1. The first Huna invasion was repulsed by Skendagupta.
- 2. Indications of a second Huna invasion are found in :-
- (a) "Najna Humadhipanam kaitipati-mukutadhyasini yan pravista"
 (MSPI of Yasodharman)
 Comparison of the extent of Yasodharman's empire with that of the
 Humas and the inclusion of the territories formerly held by the Humas,

could only be possible if Humas had invaded India a second time, pene-

trated and conquered at least the N.W. part of India.

- (b) In Harsa-carita, Bana says :- "Atha kadacit raja Rajya-vardhano Human hantum uttarapatham prahimot". This proves the presence of the Humas in NfW. Panjab and Kashmir, east of Indus. Uttarapatha is the country beyond 'Prthudaka' (modern Pehowa in Karnal Dist.) according to Rajasakhara.
- (c) From several other passages in the Hersa-carita, it can be gathered that the country where Bana locates the Humas, is to the east of Indus.
- (d) Niti-vakyamrta of Somadeve states that the Humas captured Citrakuta, which may be either the modern Citrakuta or modern Cittaura.

NATIONALITY OF TORAMANA AND MIHIRAKULA

- (a). We express statement about the nationality of Toramana and Mihirakula is found either in their records or even in the Mandasor insc. of Yagodharman. In Yagodharman's insc. the Humas are referred to as a 'bygone power' of the past, while Mihirakula is stated to have been the contemporary of Yagodharman. Therefore, Mihirakula was not a Huma.
- BUT: we may take into consideration the fact that although Mihirakula, the Huma ruler, was a contemporary of Yasodharman, the Humas in general have been referred to in the past, because they were no longer powerful rulers. They were reduced to the position of Samantas (like the Marathas, and therefore they have been spoken as a bygone power, although Mihirakula, a Huma king, was ruling under Yasodharman. If the Humas were to be taken as belonging to the remote past, then the comparison made in the inscription would have no force. In that case, it would have been much better to draw the comparison with the remote Mauryas, whose Empire was certainly very extensive.

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(b) The title 'Maharajadhiraja-gri-Toramana' in the Mandagor ingc. does not make him an Indian king, because this mode of address is applied to other kings of definitely foreign origin, e.g., 'Mahadhirajasri-Vim ... (c) The title 'Sahi' and 'Jaubla' are used by Toramana, which show that he was neither a Parthian nor a Saka. Excepting the kings of Keniska-group, no Saka or Parthian ruler of India used the title of 'Sahi'. And the title of 'Jaubla' was never used by Kaniska-group even. (d) The successors of the Imperial Kusana rulers in N.W. Panjab and Kabul valley continued the title of 'Sahi'. Toramana, after conquering them, adopted the title 'Sahi' from his predecessors. (e) Unlike Mihirakula, Totamana does not mention the name of his father, which is contrary to the Indian practice. Therefore, he may be taken as the first ruler of his clan and who established himself in India. (f) The name of Toramana is neither Senskrit nor Prakrit, but is decidedly foreign. As it took time for foreigners to adopt Indian names, they retained their original names in the first generation. (g) Toramana's identification with Kalki s/o Sisupala, as suggested by an Indologist, cannot be accepted, as there are several discrepancies in the theory., e.g., (i) The name of Kalki's son is Ajita, while Toramana's son was Mihirakula. There is no evidence to prove that Ajita was the second name of Mihirakula. (ii) According to Jaina accounts Kalki ruled over Megadha, while it cannot be shown that Toramana ever ruled beyond N.W. India and some parts of Central India, or had any connection with Sisupala of the inscription. (iii) The characters of the insc. belong to Kusana period. Therefore Sisupala belongs to pre-Gupta period. (iv) 'Sisupalah parthivanika-palah' . Toramana was not a Parthian, because he was not Sisupala ; nor was he a ksatriya, because he was not an Indian. (h) Some coins ascribed to Hepthalite kings bear the legend which is a counterpart of 'Shaha-Jauvla' of the Kura insc. The use of this title by Toramana shows that he was a Huma. Like so many other foreign tribes like Sakas, Parthians, Kusanas, etc., the Hunas also became entirely Indianised. They adopted Indian . culture, Indian religion, and Indian language. Under the vital influ-

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ence of Indian culture they lost their barbaric character and became thoroughly Indianised. During their rule donations were made to Buddhist monasteries and temples.

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ORIGIN OF THE HUNAS

The Ibmas were known to the Chinese writers from c. 4th or 5th cent. B.C. A section of the great Yui Chi tribe of N.W. China was known as Hoa-tum, in Europe as Epthalites, to Persian and Arabic writers as Haitul. From their original home in north of China. Mongolia, they came to Khotan and spread over Oxus. One wave went to Europe and seized the Roman Empire under their leader Atilla. Another branch attacked Persia. The warfare lasting for over a century, they defeated at last the Sassanian king Peroz in 484 A.D. Meanwhile they came to India through the Bolan Pass and attacked Surastra, as can be inferred from the Jun. R. Insc. of Sk.G. and his Bhitari Pil. Insc. In this war the Hunas were defeated and they retired from the Indian border. But their success over Peroz in 484, placed them in a very advantageous position and they attacked India for the second time. They consolidated their position, changed their line of advance --- Kabul, N.W.F.P. and Panjab. They did not advance towards the Ganga-plain, but went to C.I. region of Eran (Malava). As Toramana is described without any predecessor, he may be taken as the first ruler. In Eran, Buihagupta was the ruler according to his Eran Insc. of 484. His rule continued up to 495. After 16 years, in 510, we hear of a battle fought at Eran in which the Gupta officer was killed. This war must have been between the Guptas and the Hunas. This would indicate that the Hunas had conquered Panjab, etc., some years earlier.

RECORDS: (i) Toramana's record : Eran Boar Insc, of Regnal Year 1.

(ii) Mihirakula's record : Gwalior Insc. Regnal Year 15.

Just as Attila in Europe, so in India Mihirakula is attributed with cruelties in the Buddhist circle. Yuan Chwang narrates the cruelties and calls him a blood-thirsty tyrent and persecutor of the Buddhists.

During Toramana's reign a Varaha-temple at Eran was built. During Mihirakula's reign a Sun-temple at Gwalior. They themselves were Saiva, worshippers of Sthamu (Mand. Insc. Of YD). The rule of Mihirakula most probably came to an end in 532 when YD claims to have defeated MKt

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- RECORDS: 1. Mandasor Stone Slab Inscription of Yasodharman alias Visnuvardhana, ME 589 (A.D. 532).
 - 2. Mandasor Stone Pillar Inscription of Yasodharman, undated.
- PROBLEM OF IDENTITY: In Mand. St. Sl. Insc. the name Yagodharman is mentioned first and after it comes Visnuvardhana. According to the general epigraphic practice, the name of the Imperial ruler is mentioned first and that of his feudatory after it. But here the person bearing the first name is described simply as 'janendra', while the next person is styled as 'rajadhiraja-paramesvara'. On the other hand, the Pillar Ins. styles Yasodharman as 'samrat'. Consequently, there can be two views:

 (a) Yasodharman is a suzerain ruler, and Visnuvardhana a feudatory, or (b) vice versa.
- BASAK's VIEW: At the time of the Slab Insc. YD was a feudatory. He attained suzerain position later on when he had conquered many regions.

 Hence he is styled as 'samrat' in the Pillar Inscription.

As YD fought many sincessful wars on behalf of his suzerain V.V., he is given the first place in the record (i.e. Slab Insc.).

PASAK's VIEW REFUTED: We might have fought several successful battles for his suzerain, the priority of his name cannot be justified on that account. It is contrary to the usual practice. Moreover, there is no place for V.V. in political India in the latter part of the 5th cent. or the first part of the 6th, because in the latter part of the 5th Bulhagupta was ruling there (Eran Pil. Ins.) from 484 to 510. Bhanugupta ruled over Malava in 510 (Eran St. Pil. Ins.). After that Toramana appears to be the master of that region, and then Mihirakula succeeded him. YD then defeated Mihirakula. So there is an uninterrupted succession of these rulers in Malava: EG 484 - EhG 510 - Tor. c. 512 - Mihk. c. 528 - YD 552.

Therefore the view of Basak that YD of the Slab Ins. was a fewlatory of V.V., the suzerain ruler, is not tenable.

ALIAN's VIEW: D was the suzerain ruler and V.V. his feudatory. 'jamendra' is not necessarily a small ruler, and like 'narendra' denotes an imperial ruler. YD, therefore, is the suzerain and given the first place in the Mandasor Stone Slab Inscription.

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ALIAN's VIEW REFUTED: The title 'rajedhiraja-paramesvara' given to V.V. contradicts this supposition.

conclusion: None of them is a feudatory of the other, but both the names belong to the same person, i.e. YD & V.V. are identical. This view gets confirmation/from the expression: "Sri-Vismwarddhana-naradhipatih sa eva." 'sa eva' refers to the preceding verse, or even to the preceding name Yd. (b) The M.S.Fil.Ins. describes the assumption of the title 'samrat' by YD in the same manner as that of 'rajadhiraja-paramesvara' by V.V. in the Slab Insc. So samrat YD of Pillar Ins., janendra YD and rajadhiraja V.V. of Slab Insc. are one and the same person.

(c) Moreover, the territories ruled by YD described in the Pillar Ins. are the same as those of V.V. described in the Slab Insc.: Himalaya (N). Vindhya Mountain (S) -- Western ocean (W) -- Brahmaputra (E).

(d) Abhayadatta is mentioned in the Slab Insc. as a feudatory of YD-V.V. We, therefore, need not make either of YD and V.V. as a feudatory. The only conclusion is that they are identical.

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PERSONAL HISTORY OF YASODHARMAN

LINEAGE: Some hold him to be the founder of the family. "Prakhyata aulikara-lanchana atma-vamso yenoditodita.padam gamito gariyah" (M.St.Sl.).

Misinterpreting the expression 'atma-vamsah', they conclude that the dynasty began with him. But the real meaning is 'By whom his own family was raised to higher and higher position.'

YD is described here as having 'Aulikara' (the Sum or Moon) as his Coat of Arms. The word 'Aulikara-lanchana' is applied also to king Nara-verman in the line of the kings of Dasapura. The lineage of the Dasapura can be constructed from their inscriptions:-

- 1. Jaye-vermen
- 2. (son) Simhavarman | Mand. Stone Insc. of NV, A.B. 404
- 3. (son) Nara-varman
- 4. (son) Visva-varman) Gangdhar Stone Insc. of V.V., 423 A.D.
- 5. (son) Bandhu-varman) Mand. St. Insc. of Bandhuvarman, 436 A.D.
- 6. Yasodharman (V.V.), Mandasor St. Slab Insc. of YD, 532 A.D. They are generally walled Varmans of Dasapura.

Visva-varman and Bandhu-varman are feudatories of Gupta Emperor M. I.

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(Mandasor Stone Insc. of EV and KG I, A.D. 436): "Kumaragupte prthivim prasasati babhuva gopta mrpa-Visvavarma." (verse 24). But after them, YD became the sovereign ruler, with the decline of the Gupta Empire. Humas occupied Malava, defeating the Guptas. Yasodharman repulsed the Humas and became the suzerain ruler of Malava. In this task of expanding his empire, he appears to have come in clash with Guptas also.

ACHIEVEMENTS: His achievements are emmerated in his Mendasor Insc.,

A.D. 532: "Praco mrpan subrhatas ca bahun udicah, Semna yudha ca
vasa-gan pravidhaya yena, Etc". (v. 7) — subdued many great kings of
east and north, through statesmanship and valour, etc. He defeated
Mihirakula also, who paid homage to the feet of VD: "Mihirakula-mrpenarcita-pada-yugmam" (M. Pil. Ins.). VD conquered countries which even
the Guptas and the Humas could not ever conquer: "Ye bhukta Gupta-nathair
na sakala-vasudha-kranti-drsta-oratapaih, Najna Humadhipanam ksitipati-mukutadhyasini yan pravista." (v. 4, Pil. Ins.).

ADMINISTRATION: Malava and western India were placed under the Governorship of Dharmadosa, and after him, under Daksa (Nirdosa) (M. Slab Ins.).

DATE: Hastivarman of Parivrajaka family in his Majhagawam Plate, GE 191

(A.D. 510), and Samksobha, his son in his Khoh Cop.-pl, GE 209 (A.D.528)

recognise Gupta overlordship: "Gupta-mpa-rajya-bhuktau". YD's date in

M. St. Sl. Insc. is A.D. 532. YD's statement of victories is/boastful,

or his victories are posterior to A.D. 528. But his statement is neither

boastful nor due to poetical exaggeration, it is a historical statement

giving specific names of territories conquered. Therefore, his victories

must have been posterior to A.D. 528, i.e., between 528 (Samksobha's

last date) and 532 (YD's own statement in his inscription).

VIKRAMADITYA: Because of his victory over the Humas, some scholars hold him as the legendary Vikramaditya, but this title was already used by several Gupta kings. No coin of YD bearing this title has been found.

DECLINE: With Yd the line comes to an end. The Maukharis might have been the cause of his family's end.

EXTENT: From Himalaya in the north to Mahendragiri in the south, and, from Brahmaputra river in the east to the western ocean in the west.

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This inscription reveals to us a line of kings believed to be an offshoot of the Imperial Guptas, and now called Later Guptas of Magadha by historians and archaeologista.

Adityasena, whose inscription it is, probably ruled in Magadha or some country near it, as this insc. along with others was found there. The genealogy given in it is as follows: 1. Krsnagupta, 2. Harsagupta, 3. Jivitagupta I, 4. Kumaragupta (who fought with Isanavarman, probably a Maukhari king)
5. Demodaragupta (who also fought with the Maukharis), 6. Mahasenagupta (who fought with Susthitavarman), 7. Madhavagupta (who had probably some relation with Harsa of Kanauj: "Sri-Harsadeva-nija-samgama-vanchayatra".
8. Adityasena (the inscriber, and his queen).

But unfortunately, the inscription is silent about the territorial limits of the kingdom of these rulers. Besides the history of Adityasena, a few important deductions can be drawn from the information contained in it.

WAR WITH THE MAUKHARIS: Firstly, there seems to have been a prolonged int intermittent warfare between the Later Guptas and the Maukharis of Kannauj who probably were thus engaged in contest for supremacy in N.

India, and, it appears that the Maukharis were able to hold their own.

HUNAS & MAUKHARIS: Secondly, there is an allusion to the scuffle between the Hunas in the Panjab and Maukharis. Here also the Maukharis kept the Hunas at a respectable distance from Aryavarta proper. In this task they were probably helped by the House of Thanesar.

HARSA OF KANNAUJ & MADHAVAGUPTA: Thirdly, it shows that the 7th king of the Later Gupta line, Madhavagupta, father of Adityasena, was on friendly terms with Hersa. It is suggested that Guptas originally belonged to Malava, and it was Hersa who appointed Madhavagupta as the Governor of Magadha. After the death of Hersa, Adityasena laid the foundation of Gupta Empire there.

SUSTHITAVARMAN: Another important point in the insc. is the identification of Susthitavarman, defeated by Mahasena. While somscholars think that he was a king of Kemarupa, others say that he was a Maukhari, a half brother or younger brother of Servavarman. But the latter hypothesis is nothing more than a conjecture to get over the difficulty. The Guptas before Madhavagupta were in possession of Magadha and that Susthita only met the traditional

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HISTORY OF ADITYASETA (A.D. 672)

We have 4 inscriptions of Adityasena, one from Shahpur (Patna Dist.), dated 60 Harsa Era (A.D. 672-73); the other from Aphasad, the present one,; and thirdly, his name is mentioned in the Deo Barnark Insc. of his grandson Jivitagupta II.

Adityasena appears to have been a Prince of remarkable vigour and ability, who found his opportunity in the commotion which followed the break of Harsa's Empire.

In the Mondra Hill (Bhagalpur Dist., Bihar) Insc. A-sens is styled as parama-bhattaraka-maharajadhiraja'. His father was only a Sementa, which shows that he was responsible for the independence of his family. The position thus acquired by A-sens continued intact through the reigns of his son Devagupta, grandson Visnugupta, and great-grandson Jivitagupta II.

Adityasena was a staunch Vaisnavite, and both he and his queen Konadevi built many a work of charity, e.g., temples, tanks, etc.

Now the question is what really was the extent of his Empire. Of the inses, that have come down to us, none gives an indication of his territorial limits. But there is a record at Deoghar on a pier in the porch of Vaidyanatha temple (Santhal Parganas, Bengal) in the heart of his territory, which states that he was the ruler of a comparatively extensive empire and that his authority extended as far as Colapura. He is said to have brought vast amount of wealth from the Capital of Cola and with it celebrated the 3rd Asvamedha. He is further said to have constructed a temple of Visnu. But the document appears to be a late copy in Maithili characters of 13th cent. Moreover, it is not found in the place mentioned in it, but from a Saiva temple. However, it appears to be a genuine copy. The change of the name of the queen from Konadevi to Kosadevi is a clerical mistake. We may, therefore, say that he subdued the Cola power, though his influence might not have remained permanent. The general achievements ascribed to him appear to be quite possible, for his records show him to be powerful king (Cf. Fleet, p. 212, fn. 6).

Thus, Adityasena was a sovereign of very great influence in Magadha

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interest of or all work abrodes ald and caldings of of success 1273 (Br. Meeth p. 129, 120, 20). there districts one of reacted in the first the property of the property that the property the property that the property that the property that the propert

lave received remaining. The percent additionaries assuited to me

and the surrounding territories. His power was great enough for him to put forward a claim to imperial authority without being seriously questioned.

HISTORY OF THE LATER GUPTAS OF MAGADHA KNOWN FROM RECORDS

- RECORDS: 1. Stone Inscription from Aphased (Biher), of Adityasena.
 - 2. Inscription from Shahpur (Patna Dist.), Bihar.
 - 3. Inscription from Mandar Hill, Bhagalpur Dist., Bihar.
 - 4. Inscription from Deo Barmark, Shahabad Dist., Bihar, of Jivitagupta.

CONTENTS: 1. The Aphsed Insc. records the building of a Visnu temple by AS.

- 2. Shahpur (Fleet No. 43) records some grant and the installation of an image in the reign of Aditysena.
- 5. Mardar Hill Insc. records the digging of a tank by the queen Konadevi.
- 4. Dec Bernark Insc. (Fleet No. 46) gives the continuation of the genealogy of the Cuptas of Magadha for three more generations, including the name of Devagupta, which gives the clue to the date of the Vakataka Maharajas. It also records the names of certain previous kings who had confirmed the grant.

The deatails of the genealogy as furnished by the Inscs. are :-

- 1. Krsnagupta
 2. Hersagupta
 3. Jivitagupta
 4. Kumaragupta
 5. Damodaragupta
 6. Mahasenagupta
 7. Madhavagupta
 9 No specific statement of their achievements.
 10 Specific statement of their achievements.
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 13 Servayaman.
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 11 Servayaman.
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 17 Servayaman.
- WHY CALLED GUPTAS? As all the rulers have their names ending in -Gupta, they have been classed as 'Later Guptas', although they have no direct connection with the Imperial Guptas. And as all their inscriptions have been found in Rihar, they have been called the 'Later Guptas of Magadha'.
- DID THEY BELONG TO MALAVA? (1) A wrong study of the Aphsad Insc. gave the impression that these Guptas belonged to Malava.
 - (2) Bana in his Harsacarita says: "After the death of Prabhakara-varddhana (f/o Rajya- and Harsa-varddhana) of Sthanvisvara, the king of Gauda and the king of Malava attacked Kannauj, the Capital of the Maukharis, killed Grahavarman, son-in-law of Prabhakara-varddhana,

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captured his queen. From Sthenvisvere, Rajyaverddhene reached Kennauj for his sister the latter shelp, but was killed deceitfully. At that Herneverddhene hastened from Sthenvisvere to purish the enemies, but the latter fled away. This shows the emphity between the Maukharis of Kennauj and the rulers of Melava and

Gauria. Bena mentions only the surname Cupta of the ruler of Malava : "Cupta-nema Malava-rajah". We may, therefore, infer that the ruler of Malaya was a Gupta king. According to the statements contained in the Medhavone end Benskhera Inses, of Herse's time, Rejyaverddhene defeated Devegupta. This shows that the name of the Gupta king was Devegupta. The enmity between the Houses of Maleva and Kannauj is evident also from the expression "Moleve-lekemi-late-parasu" which Bare uses for Probhakaraverddhana. Bana also states that Kumeragupta and Madhavagupta, the two sons of the king of Malava, were sont to the Court at Sthanvisvara, where they were assigned the duties of waiting upon the Princes Rajyavarddhana and Harsavarddhana. We also know from Aphsad insc. that Madhavagupta was a friend of Harsavarddhana : "Sri-Harsadeva-nija-samgema-vanchaya ... Thus both these statements confirm the association of the Malava king Madhavagupta with king Harsa. From this the evident conclusion is that the Later Cuptas were the rulers of Malava. But the Later Guptas of Aphsad Insc. did not belong to Malava, because : (a) Mahasena, the 6th ruler of this line, is described in the Aphsed Insc. as having defeated Sasthitavarman (probably of Assam) and making his fame to be sung on the banks of Leuhitya (Brahmaputra): "Srimat-Susthitevernna-yuldha-vijaya yasyadyapi Lauhityasya- tatosu sphitam yaso giyate."

If Madhavegupta belonged to Malava, he could not have attacked Susthitsvarman without conquering Magadha first. If he or his predecessor had conquered Magadha, the great achievement must have found mention in the Aphsed Inscription.

(b) If 'Gupta-nema' Melevereja of Harsacarita, whose name has been suggested as Devagupta by Harsa's Medhawana and Banskhera plates, was one of the Later Guptas of Aphsad Irac., then his name Devagupta would have occured in the Aphsad insc. But there is no such name in that insc. An answer to this is suggested: that Devagupta was the son of Mehasenagupta, while his two brothers Medhawa and Kumara were

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sent to Sthanvisvera. After the death of his father Devegupta ascended the throne and allying himself with the ruler of Gauda defeated and killed Grahavarman. Devegupta, in his turn, was killed by Herse's general Bhandi, and Herse installed his companion Medhavagupta (brother of Devagupta) of that line on the throne. Therefore Devagupta, not being in direct succession, was not mentioned in the Aphsed insc.

- (c) The association and friendly relations of Madhavegupta with Harse, referred to in the Aphsed Insc., would seem strange, if we take him as belonging to Malava. Herse would not have made friendly alliance with a person whose brother was responsible for the death of his brother-in-law and widowhood of his sister.
- (d) While there is total lack of erchselogical evidence in support of the later gaptes as belonging to Meleva, the epigraphic evidence, on the other hand, places them towards the east, e.g., (i) All inscriptions of the later Cuptes have been found from Bihar, (ii) In an inscription from Demoderpur (East Bengel), 545 A.D., the king's name is damaged, but we can read 'Ku' in the beginning and the ending 'gapta' is clearly legible. So we may restore it to 'Kumaragapta' of the Later Cupte line. Hence the Later Cuptes should be placed in East Bengel.

From what has been said above, it becomes evident that beyond the similarity of names, there is no link between the two families mentioned in the Aphsad and Banskhera inscriptions. Therefore, the Line of the later Guptas given in the Aphsad Insc. definitely belonged to Magadha.

A HRIEF SURVEY OF THE HISTORY OF THE LATER GUPTAS OF MAGADHA

^{1.} Krsnagupta)
2. Hersagupta) No specific statement about their rule or achievements.
3. Jivitagupta)

^{4.} Kumaragupta — fought with the Naukhari king Isansverman, who was an embitious king and wanted to extend his territories. At first the result was in favour of Kumaragupta, but finally, KG was defeated and the Naukhari king held the field. Kumaragupta, perhaps due to the ignominy of defeat, committed suicide at Prayaga as mentioned in the Aphsad inscription.

^{5.} Damodaragupta - After the death of KG, the Hankhari king Isana-

were employed a cited with to disch and water, apprehensive of the tion recognition along to write our descriptional ambitta has amount out a topic of the first and the f -ord) of marginalities are liquided to the original for a threat for any ther of levelsplat as that the on the throne, Resolute havegates parti farent elfrat fiscations des est partir de partir de galeir des the abuganths to maid by planting the molfolomes off (a) what we lid enough army finder , well have all the best often all the best often the se belonging to Relate . Here doubt met lone selle friendly side. to divok all our aldianness are matter to always or a dite of a state with the tradestay and and one college and From al complete Control Product Control Culture of oracle effect (b) of the leter applies so belong the first layer the esteroids excited and to in the other land, classes then boughts the each, c.m. (4) it of the later of the later day to days love love later for the later (44) in a languagition from Pereinary (Engl. Propert). 555 4.3. the language nation of the periodical off of the land of the collection and the collection 'empta' is alsorly locable. So we may medere it to 'Anseregate' of the later Cupts line, lence the letter Curice clouds to class in heat . Lawren Free which her been each every, it has done evident that hepen the

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From a later copy of his inscription from the temple of Vaidyanatha in Bihar, he is said to have led an expedition to Cola country in the south, and by the wealth brought as booty from there, he performed the horse sacrifice. As Aphsad insc. does not mention this exploit, much reliance may not be placed on this copy which was made very late in the 15th cent. in Maithil characters. Fleet regards it as belonging to a period not earlier than the 16th cent. (Cor; In. In. pp. 212-214).fn.

Adityasena and his queen erected a religious shrine and made several donations. His title 'parama-bhattaraka-maharajadhiraja' speaks of him as an imperial monarch and his authority extended over considerable area. He is probably identical with 'Sun Army' (Adityasena) of a Chinese insc. His name was thus famous abroad and he had friendly relations at least with China.

- 9. Devagupta -- Succeeded Adityasena. Nothing remarkable during his reign.
- 10. Vismugupta son of Devagupta, known from Deo Barnark insc. of his son Jivitagupta. No other special information.
- 11. Jivitagupta II It seems that Later Cuptas had restored their

waters, or has son flavourpring took the energiality and hearns the of nation and I am you nativing after the Latter to en coloral est ab less grov locater and istemporalesson desh rational. . They are led to force an blatt-efficient all because of trit or domina e, is the respect to the function of the count ended by the Mundaining quie their why to the eres, are there make compensation for their loceces in the mout. Commences conquered active - a soldiertures, Ling of Revie, the lederged to the Reddy of Dississances. The flame of Historic City is city on the best of Leminita. T. Mediterrangin -- Resing the fedge of Jethersengths, the letter Capter and the Westmann regular to the Limiter in cocon, have to a close and the second tenders of the descount of the Manders there is the second tenders the tenders of the second tenders the tenders and the second tenders the tenders of the second tenders the tenders t ed to the first dies that the residence of Craiswaynes labored to different fire. It is impossible to white of larget a fine littless We'll a shally that you requestate the the endoubted of his sister. . "Sequential original adultation of multiple is puts event a new event the all the state and a state of the state o 202 A.D. Durce Cit A.D.J. Fair about 100 A 202 and died in A.C. will be and not explain and less the light beat. the amendative of the block off also first you to accome all he become the master of Contevention. In tour the Alite turname the beside and the professional and resident the view of the "orest There a latter dogs at the inscribition from the terrole of Valdenman in Miles, he to sold to beyo led at expedicion to Cala country in the been electrical and paged true, dues not mention that a plant, and and after your offer and father year will so have by od that you according the 13th court to builtiff given chara, "has reported it an belonging in a period bot souther bloom the tech cent. (over In. In. pp. min. and., m. teres were for welcole notification a telephone many will been expected. densitions. He wills be the transmission of the property of th notes ablence were bediebed at the subberies over the series the said to (amounties) types out! Sets Logistali villages at all large Officers from the mode was found formula street and the best spingles . while the real of the little of the policy of the state of t procedured bridge rands of the state of the self-

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authority over theareas taken away from them by the Maukharis. Jivitagupta succeeded Vismugupta, made a grant of Deva-Varumarka, the Agrahara donated by the Maukharis and now under the sway of the Leter Guptas. He is the last monarch of this line.

Assigning 20 years each to two generations after Adityasena, the family comes to an end in 672 + 20 + 40 = 782 A.D., i.e., in the first half of the 8th cent. A.D.

Vakpatiraja wrote 'Gauda-vaha', an expedition of Yasovarman against the king of Magadha and Bengal. We are tempted to regard him as the king of Bihar and Bengal, identical with Jivitagupta II, who met the defeat at the hards of Yasovarman. It is only circumstantial evidence and cannot be regarded as a fact. It is quite likely that Gauda Magadhanatha was someone else than Jivitagupta II.

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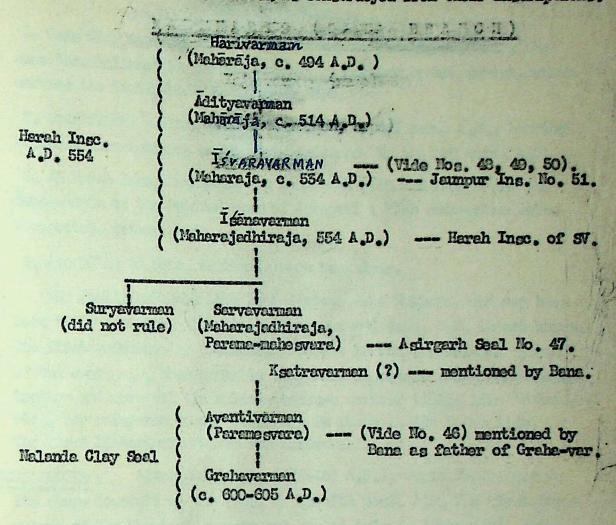
LATER GUPTAS OF MAGADHA

1. Krsnagupta 2. Hersagupta 3. Jivitagupta I 4. Kumaragupta From 1 to 8 the names occur in Aphsad Insc. of Adityasena. 5. Damodaragupta 6. Nahasenagupta 7. Madhavagupta 8. Adityasena A.D. 672, Shahpur Ins. of Adit. 9. Devagupta From 8 to 11 the names occur in Deo Barnark 10. Visnuguota Insc. of Jivitagupta II. 11. Jivitagupta II

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MAUKHARIS OF KAMMAUJ (HARAH BRANCH)

The lineage of the Mandalais is constructed from their incoriptions.



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MAUKHARIS (GAYA BRANCH)

Yejnaverman (mrpa)
Sardula(-varman, mrpa)
Amentavarman --- (Vide Nos. 48, 49, 50).

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THE MAUKHARIS

AMPROUITY OF THE FAMILY: There were several dynasties which bore the neme of Manicheris.

- 1. Gaya Clay Scaling, discovered by General Cumingham, beers the name 'Naukhalinam' in Prekrit written in earlier Brahmi script, which carries the family back to 2nd cent. B.C.
- 2. Sacrificial pillers (yupas) belonging to 2nd cent. A.D., bearing Maukhari inscriptions, prove their existence in the 2nd cent. A.D.
- 5. In Barah insc. Mculcheris are connected with the Panjab and the descendents of the hundred sons of Asvapati: "Yah gute-satem lebbe Vivasvatah, tat-pragutah"
 - 4. According to Bene, Maukheris were kentriyes.

The family name may have been derived from Mukhara, who may have been their ancestor. Their history in the 2nd cent. B.C. is not known. The first reference as 'Senapatis' occurs in the secrificial 'yupas' of 2nd cent. A.D. Most probably they held Amportant posts in administration and were not the rulers, because neither titles like 'Maharaja', etc., nor reference to any territory is found in the Marah inse. The first historical monarch was Mariyarman.

CIRCUMSTANCES: After Dulhagupta (476-496 A.D.), Gupta Empire was on its shorp downfall at the close of the 5th cent. A.D. The first three rulers of the Maukhari dynasty are styled only as 'Maharaja', which shows that most probably they had become the feudatories of the Guptas. It was the 4th ruler, Ismaverman, who had become 'Maharajadhiraja' in A.D. 554, Maukharis had to fight very hard to achieve that dignity and style, viz., 'Maharajadhiraja'.

PERSONAL HISTORY: 1. Herivernen: He was only a 'Maharaja'.

- 2. Adityavarman : Son and successor of Harivarman, only a 'Maha-raja' without any achievements. He ruled over the ancestral kingdow. His relations with the Later Cuptas were cordial. He married Harsagupta, the daughter of Krsnagupta, who was his chief queen.
- 3. Isvaraverman: Son and successor of Adityavarman, only a 'Maharaja'. An insc. from Jampur (No. 51) speaks of certain victories over (1) Vindhyn mountain, (11) region of Dhara, and (111) lord of Andhra. But the lacunce following line 5 are so extensive that it is impossible to say whether the historical information given in them refers to Isvaraverman, or to one of his descendents. Harah insc. does not refer to any victory of Isvaraverman. Moreover, his title of 'Maharaja' too indicates a subordinate status.
- 4. Isanevernan: His date is known from Hereh Insc. as 554 A.D.
 He became a 'Maharajadhiraja' after a severe struggle. He came
 in conflict with the Later Cuptes and was engaged in wer with

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Munaragupte, At first Isanaverman was defeated, but afterwards he was successful. MG committed suicide at Prayaga. After his death, Mankharls drove the Later Guptas out of Magadha, who filed and took shelter on the sea shore: "hrtva Guptan samulrägrayan".

Though the Guptas had retired to East Bengal, they were hotly pursued by Isanavarman. Demoderagupta, son of KG, was pressed very hard in the battle, so much so that he fainted from his wounds in the battle-field.

Victories over Vindbya, Dhara and Andhra, montioned in the Jaunuar insc. (No. 51) are, in all probability, to be attributed to him. This is corroborated by references in other sources in which Mulikas, the people of Vindbya region, are said to be conquered by him.

- 5. Surveyermen: He is mentioned as the son of Igenevermen in Herah insc., but in other records Serveyermen is said to be the son end successor of Igenevermen. From this two conclusions can be drawn, viz., either Surveyermen was not the elder son, or if he was the elder, he must have died during his father's time, and Serveyermen succeeded.
- 6. Servenermen: Son of Igenevermen, he was styled as 'Mahereja-dhiraja', indicating his imperial status. His copper Seal was found at Asirgarh, but that does not prove that his territory extended up to that place. It was found among certain other documents belonging to Maheraja Sinihia. Dec Bernark insc. (No. 46) of Jivitagupta II mentions his name. It is difficult to say whether the Maukhari ruler against whom Damodaragupta fought was Serveyerman or his father Igensyerman.
- 7. Ksatrevermen: Bene makes mention of enother Neukheri king, Ksatrevermen, who was killed by his bard. Katre suggested that Ksatrevermen belonged to this family, and may be placed between Servermen and Avantivermen. But the suggestion is not acceptable, because:
- (i) Mere mention of Ksatravarnan as Maukhari by Bana, does not prove that he belonged to this Line, as there were several other branches of this family. (ii) Bana speaks highly of the Maukharis of Kannauj and mentions Avantivarnan in complimentary terms, while he calls Ksatravarnan a fool. It is umbelievable that Bana should call the father of Avantivarnan, for whom he shows regard, a fool. (iii) Moreover, Ksatravarnan is said to have died as a result of a successful plot of his encules. Had he belonged to this branch of the family, the line would have come to an end. But we find Avantivarnan sontiming to rule in the family. (iv) There are only 50 years between Isansvernan (A.D. 554) and and Grahavarnan (A.D. 604) for 4 rulers, i.e. Isana (554-560), Serva (560-590), Avanti (590-600), Graha (600-605). Hence there is a real difficulty in assigning any time to his rule. (v) Malania Clay Seal presents Avantivarnan as son and immediate successor of Servavarnan.

In view of the above, no place can be given to Keatravarman in Maukhari genealogy. If he did belong to the family, the most we can say about him is that he might have come to grief as a result of court intrigue.

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. . (69)

8. Avantivermen: He was the son and successor of Servevermen.

Bane sulogizes him as 'tilehe-bhutasya'. He fought with the Humas side by side with the Verddhenas of Theneser. This gave lead to the view that he was the patron of the poet Visakhedatta, the author of Muire-re.

- 9. Crahawaran: The son and successor of Aventiverson, he was the last Maukhari momorch. He is mentioned by Bana, and in Malanda Clay Seal. He married Rajyasri, the daughter of Prabhakaravarddhana of Themesar. It appears that the Later Guptas did not forget their bloodfoul with the Maukharis. After the death of Aventiverson (Maukhari of Kannauj) and Prabhakaravarddhana (Themesar), the Later Guptas of Caula, and Malava joined hands, and made a surprise attack on Kannauj. They seized Kannauj, captured and murdered Grahavarnan, and made Rajyasri a captive. Rajyavardhana come from Themesar to help, but was killed descitfully. Then Hersa merched towards Kannauj against the Guptas of Malawa and Gardas who fled away before him. Ehandi, Hersa's general finished the Malava ruler. Thus the Maukhari house came to an end on account of the murder of Grahavarnan. King Hersa transferred his capital from Sthenviswara to Kanyakabja, and became the master of Ganga-valley (A.D. 606).
- DATES: Isanovermen's date is known from Herah ingo, as 554 A.D. Herivermen, the orininator of the family, was in the third generation before him. Assigning 20 years to each we got 554 - 60 - 494 A.D. as the period of commencement of Herivermen's rule.

Heres came to the threne at Kenyakubja in 606 A.D.. So Grahaverman might have died in A.D. 604, which gives the date of the end of the Naukhari House.

CAPITAL: According to Bena, Kenyekubja was the capital of Avanti-verman end Grehaverman. We know nothing about the Capital of the earlier Maukharis. Their inscriptions are found scattered over a vast territory of Uttara-pradesa, Shahabad Distt. of Western Magadha.

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MAUKHARIS (GAYA BRANCH)

- SOURCE: Inscriptions from Barabar Hill Cave and Nagarjumi Hill Cave
 Nos. 48, 49, 50.
- NAMES: The king (mrpa) Yajnavarman, his son, the king Sardula(-varman), and his son Anantavarman.

No relation is mentioned with the Maukharis of Harah branch. No title of Maharajadhiraja and no detailed history either on epigraphs or in literature. Originally they were officers under the Guptas. With the decline of the Guptas, they became feudatories.

- 2. Sardula(-varman): He is described as 'Samanta-cudamani', i.e.,

 Chief of the Feudatory Rulers, because of his exceptional

 valour and military strength. He was a terror to his foes

 ('Kalah sattru-mahibhujam), but charmed the thoughts of lovely

 women (kanta-citta-harah) on account of his Cupid-like beauty

 (Smara-pratisamah). No. 48.
- Yajnavarman: He is described as famous by the performance of copious sacrifices. Though he was the foremost of all kings (rajakasyagranih), yet he did not make any effort to establish an empire. He remained calm and unperturbed like an ocean (prakrtistha eva vinayad aksobhya-sattvadadhih). No. 50
 - 3. Anantavarman: He installed several images of deities in the caves of Barabar Hill, made the grant of a village to the Durga temple, installed the image of Ehutapati (Siva) and Devi (Parvati) of the kind called Ardha-nirisvara in a rock-cut chamber (guha).

All the three kings are said to have performed Vedic rites.

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All the three lings ere cell to have performed Vedic riter.

- SOURCE: Vakatakas are not mentioned in literature, nor in the genealogies of the Puranas. The only source of their name and history is their inscriptions on stone and copper-plates discovered from Berar (C.P.).
- ORIGIN OF THE NAME: The name Vakataka is certainly derived from the name of a place, like the names Kanceyaka, Mahakantaraka, etc. The founder of the family must have been a person who hailed from or was connected with some place called 'Vakata', 'Vakata', 'Bagat' or 'Bagata'.
- THEORIES ABOUT THE PLACE: (a) Dr. Jayassal: identified it with a village 'Bagata' in Orocha State near Jhansi (C.I.), the link between this village and the dynasty being the 'Gotra' Vismwrddha of the Brahmanas inhabiting it, which was the same as that of the Vakatakas. He tried to support this view from some coin said to have been found at Kosam, near Allahabad and supposed to be issued by Pravarasena I. But no coins were issued by the Vakatakas at all.
 - (b) Dr. Altekar: An inscription from Amravati in Andhra makes mention of a Vakataka pilgrim. Hence Vakatakas must also be people of the south. This view is supported by the fact that Vakataka inscriptions are found to the south of Narmada. No document has been found in the north. They themselves speak of their southern character. Thus epigraphic evidence is more reliable. Mere community of Catra of the Brahmanas inhabiting the Bagata village is not conclusive evidence.
- BELONGED TO THE SOUTH: There is no valid argument to support the theory that the Vakatakas were originally a northern dynasty, On the other hand, there are several indications to prove that they belonged to the south.
 - (i) Several expressions in their Senskrit and Prakrit inscriptions bear striking similarities to those used in Pallava grants.
 - (ii) Like the Satakarnis, Kadambas and Chalukyas of the south, the early Vakatakas of the south called themselves 'Haritaputras'.
 - (iii) Like Pallavas and Kadambas (the southern dynasties), they assumed the title of 'Dharma, maharaja'.

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CAPITALS : Of Vindhye-sekti, the Capital was Canaka, probably their original Capital. Purenes mention Canala, but it is not yet identified. It may be in Kanarese country, Channagiri.

Of Pravaragena I, the Capital was Purika, which was previously the Capital of the Nagas. It may have become the Capital of the Vakatakas after their advent into the province. It was situated somewhere in the Satapura mountains (Harivense Purena).

Of Ruirasena I (Main Brench), the Capital was Purika, and of Servasone it was Vatseguine (Besim

Prthvigena I (Main Branch) Mandiverdhena.

were they yavanas? Owing to the corrupt reading of a passage in the Purane and partly due to its misconstruction, the Vakatakas were believed to be Yavenes. But the preveiling view, on the other hand, is that they were Brahmanas.

erancies or different chiealogies

FROM COPPER-FLATES: From Channek plates of Prayarasena II --end Balaghat Insc. of Prthivisens II ---(A) 1. Serrat Preverasene I 2. Gautemiputra (son) -- did not rule. 5. Rudrasena (Son) 4. Prthivisena I (son) 5. Rudrasena II (son) 6. Prayarasana II (son) 7. Nerendragena (son) 8. Prthivisons II (son)

(B) From Basin Plates :-

1. Vindhya-sakti I

2. Preverasena (son)

(aon) 5. Servesene

4. Vindhye-sekti II

Two inscriptions at Ajanta and Guluara, FROM STONE WALL INSCRIPTIONS : engraved on the stone wall of a rock-cut temple, give another genealogy. 1. Finily while

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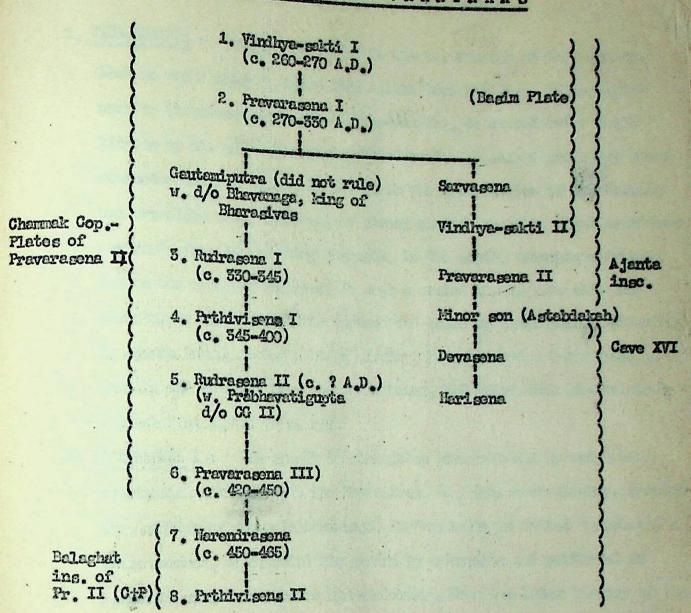
1. Vindhya-sokti
2. Preveragene
3. [Rudra Joena
4. [Prthivisene] (doubtful reading)
5. Preveragene II
6. Hinor son of 8 years (astabdakah), name lost).
7. Devegene
8. Harisena

THECONCILIATION: Prof. Mirashi tackled the problem of reconciliation of these different genealogies given in (B) and (C) above:

- (a) The first pert, vis., 'Ruira' is demaged and practically has to be supplied. Prof. Mirachi has restored it to Serva, and read it as Servasena instead of Ruirasena. This reading gets confirmation from the fact, that the author of the Ajanta Cave Insc. was fond of alliteration, e.g., "nirvapano....prenenya purva. pravakayo kaitipempurvye" and "Pravaddhaseli Demagaktih Vindhya-saktih". So, in the line under question the reading Serva is harmonious with alliteration: "Pravarasenasya jita-serva-senah [Serva] senah suto 'bhavat."
- (b) In line 7, the first and the last two letters of the name are missing. Mirashi restores the name to '[Vi]mhye[sukti]' or [Vi]mhye[sone]. In this way Prof. Mirashi holds these two genealogies identical and gives the following reconciled genealogy of (B) and (C).
 - 1. Vinihyo-sekti I
 2. Fravarasena I
 5. Servasena
 4. Vinihyo-sekti II
 5. Prevarasena II
 6. Minor son of 8 years
 7. Devasena
 8. Herisena

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GENEALOGY OF THE VAKATAKAS



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HISTORY OF THE VAKATAKAS

- That he was a ruler is known from Ajanta, founder of the dynasty.

 That he was a ruler is known from Ajanta Cave XVI insc. He was great warrior (kruddha-purair api aniverya-viryah). He carved out a small kingdom by his personal efforts. Third cont. A.D. was a period of great confusion all over India. In the north the great empire of the Kusanas was crumbling down. There was no strong contral power to check ambitious war lords from accumulating strength. In the south, Satavehana dynasty was on the verge of collapse. In such a period it was very easy for adventurous men to try their fortune and build up their power. According to Ajanta insc., he had a large cavelry, he conquered a large part of Kumtala and Vidarbha from the Satavahanas, and ruled from his original Capital from c. 250 to c. 270.
- 2. FRAVARASEIA I: He sought to strengthen his position by means of a matrimonial alliance with the Bharasivas. His son, Gautamiputra, married the daughter of Maharaja Bhavanaga. In Purana he is called 'pravira', a brave monarch. He extended his empire by conquests and performed an Asyamedha rite to celebrate his victories. From the later history of the dynasty and later division of the empire, it can be gathered that he was the master of the whole of C.P. and Berar. He was the real founder of the Vakataka kingdom and may have ruled from 270 to 330 A.D. He extended his empire northwards as far as Narmada, and shifted his Capital to Purilca after defeating the Maga ruler.
- deceased. An important statement about him is that he is described as the daughter's son of Bhavenaga of Bharasiva Naga family. Muntion of Bharasivas in Vakataka records shows that they were of great service to the Vakataka ruler Prayarasona I. We may conjecture that because of the young age of Rudrasona I, his uncle Servasona might have attempted to take possession of the entire domain, but Rudrasona's mothers relatives, the Bharasivas did not permit the right of their daughter's son to be so easily trampled over.

Though Bharagives' intervention, Rudrasena I, the elder son of Preverasena I, got the major share of the empire. This Rudrasena did not come into clash with Semuiragupta (as identified by some with Rudradeva

Council and the related to the leader of the last the second of the leader of the leader. the state of the second state of the state o there is the ferrior of the court contract of mires out a process of the there is to be to the profess of the cent. I. the a period of great confusion all news latter that he rests the spect excite of the treatment or ornatilization. There has no starny combant seasor to check salition were ter a from communication circular, in the contin. Televaluna how sta not reason years and it instrumes the men of the present its time were near the contactor can to tracticin forthe and intid up their comer, secondar to buse equal a better to at , which equal a had all , out alors Contribute the contribution of the following and real from the officer List Drawer, 1250 to 18, 170. of a language matthematic nativative of theyon of the language and the same engineering officence and the diversity of the some life to be seen that the some interpreter the restrict of local of accepts at the expension of many for explained to term courses. To esteried the estimative conscepts unit perfect Assemble ride to release to hip meteries, from the later blacent to made the state of the contrary of the contrary of the contrary that he can the firster of the whole of i.e. will have been the real femiles of t columnia believed on the column and column a of Leinest aid toffice has prescribed ust no absundance origin aid Andre often dedectors the legs often. a star Louise to most been I represent to mortall and on a representation decemberd, in injertical electeds could be in the industries of -developed a con of diametric of Theresty Tope, forther a least ell of solicite from the design what their other and the third of a win relievely received by recognition of the control that the lifetime of the control wise of converted and the filterest in a large and the state of the st percention of the entire legion, but projected attention of the modern to

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of Allahabad Pillar Insc., on the plea that Rudrasena is styled merely (76)as Maharaja, while his grand-father Pravarasena bore the title 'Samrat'). Against this identification it may be urged :-(i) Vakatakas were a great and powerful dynasty. If they had been subdued, the fact would have been mentioned clearly in the All. Pil. Ins. (ii) Rudradeva of A.P.I. belongs to Aryavarta, while the Vakatakas belong to the south (Daksina). (iii) Rudradeva of A.P.I. was violently exterminated (prasabhoddhrta) and his House came to an end, while the dynasty of Rudrasena continued to flourish after him. (iv) The possibility of a confederacy of rebellions is absent. (v) Prthivisena I, the son of Ruirasena I, is described as "Mahesvarasya ... varsa-satam abhivardhamana-kosa-danda-sadhana-santana-putrapautrinah ... Vakatakanam Maharaja-sri-Prthivisenasya". This shows that PrS had continuous supply of treasure which had been accumulating for a hundred years. He was a Saiva. He shifted his Capital to Nandivardhana. His vassal Vyaghradeva, the ruler of Bundelkhard, was conquered by Si. (vi) The title of Maharaja is not indicative of an inferior status in south. The title 'Samrat' was assumed by Pravarasena simply on account of his performance of Vedic rites. By the conquest of several small kingdoms in the south, which were already feudatories of the Vakatakas, the kingdom of the Senior Branch

of the Vakatakas came to be confined to Northern Vidarbha, between Narmada and the Indhyadri range.

4. PRIHIVISENA I: He ruled from c. 345 to 400 A.D. (See (v) above)

5. RUDRASENA II: Son of Prthivisena I. A notable fact is his marriage with Prabhavatigupta d/o CG II of the Imperial Gupta family. She was his Chief queen. CG II is mentioned under his second name Devagueta. In Poona and Riddhapura Cop.-plates of Prabhavatigupta, she has traced her descent from her grand-father, and mentions her father as CG II. The marriage was a diplomatic move. CG II was planning an astack on the Ksatriyas of Ujjayini. The Vakatakas could have been a source of great service or disservice to him in his enterprise. The marriage resulted in the influx of northern influence at the Vakataka court. That some of the Gupta officers were at the Vakataka Court, can be inferred from the Poons Cop.-pl. of Prabhavatigupta which is inscribed in northern variety fora d balifts and among them I'm thought a conreal state and area investor in vertices the time and appears to -i borts of wit at noticeMidwell adia teritors (i) Veletere pero e river end rewrited director. If they led been erblied, the fact world have been certifred elective in the all. The taletaist oft ellie, where to prevent, wille the Teletalen release to the south (Pulsura), and (iii) balredeva ef a.t.I. was rielerthy enterrances (procediositate) erd its fours care to an end, wills the density of dairegers continued ivi The possibility of a corfederen of reballions is about. water a religion of paragraph . Is decorated to manage the - ming-orazidan-aradban-akab-anodearadalle widia entan-antav ... a this person will . Improved the - interior to a second to . . . in the a rol yaldalusmes meed but delike entraced the allogue succedibite in and posme. To pre a delyn. De cilled the Applet to Tentime Liere. is reased Veglandons, the reder of Annieldent, as compared by 26, nt and we coincing as to eviterize to a sind serial to a little and (iv. counti. The titile 'an article and article are recently frevere carrier on second of his reviewance of Vedic when. Dr. the commont of reversal call langions in the scutic, which were Chronic foundation of the Wilsteller, the identifier of the Content Trends of the Weighten one to is derined to Pertion Widowie, between Regards and the lindbacks women. Levels (v) est D. Co. Cot to Tion o. Jan to Mare (v) shove Cir essiste ali al vod aliboral. Laceristic to come . Il maniente com collegents die 00 II of the openial Aught Amily, the use Mr Chief overs, to II is notified under his recent rere Deverupte, Id come and side (agent top . - Tates of trails whitever, also has traced to descent from her grand-latter, and restions her latter as the life rendere use a digioratic neve. Of II was pleasing an table on the Securities of Wileyand. He Felicicies confilires been a seurce of read convice or discervice to the in his enterprise. The marriage resulted in the initian of marchers influence of the Velatela court, list some of the engine officers were at the Teletale doors, one le infered dron the policie producer al bodinessi al dollie alterializzatione o

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of Gupta alphabet, whereas Vakataka records were inscribed in the boxheaded variety.

Unlike his father, Ruirasena II was a devotee of Vignu. This might have been due to the influence of his wife Prabhavatigupta. He died in the prime of his youth. His sons were minor when he died. Prabhavati acted as Regent of her sons. Divakara-sena was the eldest son, but he also died at a very young age before ascending the throne. After his death, the mother acted as Regent of her second son Pravarasena II, who was named Demodarasena in his younger years.

6. Pravarasena II: (c. 420-450) When FS II came of age, he himself took up the reins of administration. About a dozen Copper-plates of his grants have been found, which shows that he was charitably disposed. He enjoyed a long rule of at least 27 years. The copper-plates give no information of any political event during his reign.

Tradition: As he was piously disposed, the tradition about his being given to the pleasures of life, does not seem to be true. The attribution of the Prakrit Kavya 'Setubandha' to him also appears to be improbable, for it is very unusual for a king to write a Prakrit poem, especially when his court language is Sanskrit. The Copper-plates are issued from diffehent places and the name of Pravaranagara occurs more than once. He was a devotee of Sanbhu.

- 7. Marendrasena: (c. 450-465) Nerendrasena succeeded his father PS II.

 His identification with monarch of 8 years (astablakah) has been rejected. According to Balaghat insc. he was married to the daughter of the lord of Kuntala. Another significant statement in that insc. is his being: "Kosala-Makala-Malavadhipati-abhyarcita-sasanah", which is ---
 - (i) Either exaggerated statement, because in Sammiragupta's time, the Guptas held E. Malava and in CG II's time even W. Malava came under Gupta sway. Kosala is E. part of C.P. comprising distis. of Bilaspur, Rampur, etc. Mekala is on the south of Marmada river. SkG had his hold on the westernmost part of India. Or,
 - (ii) it might imply that Vakatakas were contesting the Gupta overlordship in northern India and defying their authority. But Ski repulsed Narendrasena, which can be inferred from the fact that Prinivisena, s/o Narendrasena, is said to have recovered the sunken fortune of his family.

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8. Prthivisens II : (c. 465-480) He is described as "Nimagne-vemse-semuldh-

Basim Branch (Basim plates and Ajanta Cave Insc.) was founded by Sarvasena, the younger son of Pravarasena I. His kingdom seems to have extended from the south of Indhyadri range up to the banks of the Godavari. He made Vatsagulma (modern Basim) in Akola Distt., his Capital. Harisena: the last known monarch of Basim Line, had a minister Varahadeva, who was a pious and liberal person. He caused the Ajanta Cave XVI to be excavated and decorated with sculptures and picture galleries.

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UCCAKALPA DYNASTY (Feudatories of the Vakatakas)

The names of the kings of this dynasty are known from their Copperplate grants found from different places in Ajayagarh and Jaso States (previously C.I.Agency). These records do not indicate any name of the place to which these kings belonged, and only mention the place from which the grants were issued as Uccakalpa.

There are three stone inscriptions, 2 from Nachna and 1 from Ganja. In these inscriptions Vyaghradeva describes himself as a feudatory of Vakataka king Prthivisena.

Some scholars have identified this Vyaghradeva with Vyaghradeva of Mahakantara, mentioned in All. Pil. Insc., on the similarity of name and of the script of 4th-5th cent. But the A.P.I. Vyaghra belongs to Daksinapatha, whereas Nachna and Ganja are situated in Aryavarta. Therefore, Vyaghradeva of Nachna and Ganja may be identified with one described in Copper-plates of Jaso and Ajayagarh, because: (a) the script of both the records is the same, and (b) the places are situated near each other. In the absence of any evidence to the contrary, this identification may be accepted.

The territory of these Uccakelpa kings was contiguous to that of Parivrajakas. Parivrajakas were the feudatories of the Guptas, while the Uccakelpkas were those of the Vakatakas.

Samvat. It is difficult to decide as to which Era they should be referred. While the Parivrajakas used the Era of their over-lords, the guptas, the overlords of the Uccakalpas, i.e., the Vakatakas, had no Era of their own. They reckoned their dates simply in their regnal years. So the question of Uccakalpas using the Era of their overlords does not arise. Their dates are not even in their own Regnal Years, is evident from the fact that these dates are in serial order throughout from the fact to the last monarch. They range from 171 to 214.

A stone insc. found at Ehumra, which is a boundary stone record, tells us that Parivrakjaka king Hastin and Uccakalpa king Sarvanatha tells us that Parivrakjaka king Hastin and Uccakalpa king Sarvanatha tells us that Parivrakjaka king Hastin and Uccakalpa king Sarvanatha tells us that Parivrakjaka king Hastin and Uccakalpa king Sarvanatha tells us that Parivrakjaka king Hastin and Uccakalpa king Sarvanatha tells us that Parivrakjaka king Hastin and Uccakalpa king Sarvanatha tells us that Parivrakjaka king Hastin and Uccakalpa king Sarvanatha tells us that Parivrakjaka king Hastin and Uccakalpa king Sarvanatha tells us that Parivrakjaka king Hastin and Uccakalpa king Sarvanatha tells us that Parivrakjaka king Hastin and Uccakalpa king Sarvanatha tells us that Parivrakjaka king Hastin and Uccakalpa king Sarvanatha tells us that Parivrakjaka king Hastin and Uccakalpa king Sarvanatha tells us that Parivrakjaka king Hastin and Uccakalpa king Sarvanatha tells us that Parivrakjaka king Hastin and Uccakalpa king Sarvanatha tells us that Parivrakjaka king Sarvanatha tells us that Sarvan

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For Hastin we have dates ranging from 156 to 191 GE (475-510 A.D.). In other words, the reign of Servariatha must fall between these years. We have to find out the Mahamagha Samvatsara between 475 and 510. We get three such samvatsaras, viz., GE 165 (A.D. 484), GE 177 (496) and GE 189 (508). Available inscriptions give dates for Servanatha ranging from 193 to 214. Now, there are different suggestions about their reference: (a) Dr. Jayaswal suggested that these dates should be referred to Vakataka Era, but we find that there was no such Era.

- (b) The second suggestion is to refer them to Kalacuri (Cedi) Ers, whose epoch is 248-249 A.D. But according to this we get 193 + 248 = 441 to 214 + 248 = 462 A.D. as dates for Servanatha, while the earliest dates for Hastin is A.D. 475. We cannot extend Hastin's reign, which is already long, by starting it 15 years earlier.
- (c) These dates may be referred to Gupta Era. This would put Sarvanatha from 193 + 319 = 512 to 214 + 319 = 533 A.D. We can start the reign of Sarvanatha four years earlier without much difficulty. i.e. in A.D. 508, the date which fulfils both the conditions, i. e., it is Mahamagha samvatsara and it falls within the reign of Hastin.

There is a long gap between the last known date of Jayanatha, the predecessor of Sarvanatha, i.e., 177, and the earliest known date of Sarvanatha i.e. 193. Therefore, we can very easily assume that the reign of Sarvanatha started 4 years earlier, because:

- (i) the relations between the Guptas and the Vakatakas were cordial.
- (ii) Vakatakas had no Era of their own.
- (iii) In N. India Gupta Era was in use.

So the Uccakelpas used the GE according to the current practice of N.I. They do not mention the sovereignty of the Guptas, because they owed their allegiance to the Vakatakas.

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ASOKA

EARLY LIFE: Many stories are found in Buddhist works representing him Kalasoka before and Dharmasoka after his conversion to Buddhism. They are, however, not trustworthy, and only his epigraphic records are of undoubted veracity. They are inscribed either on rocks, or stone pillars or in caves.

I. Rock Inscriptions are of 2 kinds :

- (a) 14 Rock Edicts are fourteen different inscriptions found in/different localities, all on the confines of India. They follow a serial order.
- (b) Minor Rock Edicts, consisting of two different records.

 Three copies of both in Mysore, and only Edict I at
 four other places.

II. Pillar Inscriptions :

- (i) Seven Pillar Edicts constituting a group.
- (ii) Minor Pillar Edicts are four different epigraphs.

III. Cave Inscriptions:

They are engraved in caves in the Barabar Hills of Bihar, and altogether no less than 50 different inscs.

- SCRIPT: They are engraved in Brahmi lipi, of which the mystery was first unravelled by James Prinsep in the last century. He read the name 'Piyadasi' but could not identify him.
- NAME & TITLE: In epigraphs the king calls himself 'Piyadasi' (Priyadasin). Turnour of Ceylon Civil Service, a Pali scholar, identified him with Asoka on the authority of Simhalese 'Dipavamsa' which gave Piyadassi or Piyadassana as-another name of Asoka, the grandson of Candragupta Maurya. This was later confirmed by the 6th copy of Minor Rock Edict at Maski in Raichur Distt. in Hydrabad Deccan, where the name of Asoka is clearly mentioned in the first line. One of the Ceylonese chronicles styles his grandfather CG as Piyadassana. Therefore, Piyadassi was the king's 'biruda' or second name, and Asoka his real name.

In most of his inscriptions Asoka styles himself as 'Devanam-piyo Piyadasi', 'Piyadasi raja' Piyadasi raja', but sometimes as 'Devanam-piyo Piyadasi', 'Piyadasi raja' Devanam-piyo raja', or merely 'Devanam-piyo'. This shows that the word 'Devanam priya' had not acquired a derogatory sense of 'afool' in the time of Asoka, as it had in Bhattoji Diksita's or Hemacandra's time. Another noteworthy fact is that Asoka designates himself as merely 'raja' This shows that the grandiloquent titles of supremacy like 'Maharaja', 'Rajadhiraja' or 'Maharajadhiraja' had not come into use in his time.

PROTOCOLE: Many of Asoka's inscs. commence with the formula 'Devanam
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the gods. With this compare the proclamation of the Achaemenides, from Darius to Artaxermes Ochus "Thus saith the king Darius". In both cases the vphrase is in the third person. It could not have been imitated by Asoka directly from Persia. As a matter of fact it was one of the protocols of the royal chancery noticed by Kautilya in his Arthasastra. Indians may have adopted the Persian protocol due to the Achaemenian conquest and administration of north-west India.

Asoka's coronation. Simhalese tradition says that he was coronated 4 years after his accession to the throne by massacring 99 of his brothers after his father's death, and sparing only Tisya, the youngest. This is refuted by his inscriptions which speak, not of one, but of several brothers, living and staying in Pataliputra and various other towns of his empire. There is no good-reason to think that any long interval of 4 years elapsed between Asoka's coronation and his assumption of the reins of government.

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION: From Pillar Edict V it is inferable that Asoka was in the habit of celebrating the anniversary of his coronation by release of prisoners: "Yava saduvisati-vasa abhisitena me etaye antalikaye pamna-visati bandhana-mokhani katani..." (Yavat sadvimsati-varsa-bhisiktena maya etasmin antare panca-vimsatih bandhana-moksah krtah) -- 'By me, who am consecrated 26 years up till now, 25 jail deliveries have been effected just in that period'. The dates specified in the records are in current regnal years.

MAKSATRAS: Kautilya prohibits castration and destruction of animal foetus on certain days, including the days of the Naksatras of the king and the country. Pillar Edict V prohibits castration and branding of animals on Tisya and Punarvasu days. The two separate Edicts of Dhauli and Jaugada (in newly conquered Kalinga) were ordered to be recited every Tisya-day for the exhortation and guidance of the officials against excesses. Moreover the later constellation Tisya is placed prior to eralier Punarvasu in Pillar Edict V. It shows importance and that it must be of the king, and Punarvasu of the country, which should, therefore, be understood as Magadha.

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charge of 4 viceroyalties of Taksasila, Ujjayini, Suvarnagiri, and Tosali. One cannot say whether Tivara was one of them.

public Business: Rock Edict VI describes how often and at what different places he dispatched the business of his people. At all hours and at all places — while eating, in closed female apartments, in inner chember (garbha-grha), with the stud, on horse-back (vinita), or in pleasure orchards. Evidently, therefore, when Asoka had no business to dispose of, he was to be found at his Capital, either regaling in dining hall, engaged with the ladies of his harem, chatting in his retiring room, or inspecting theoroyal stud (vraja), enjoying horse-ride, or beguiling his time in the orchard.

TASTES: Before conversion Asoka was very fond of meet. Thousands of enimals were killed in kitchen. After conversion, even when he rigorously stopped slaughter, he had 2 pea-cocks and one dear for his table. He stopped the killing of the deer but continued to take the flesh of peacocks for some time more Buddhaghosa, in his commentary on Samyuttanikaya, says. To the people of the frontier provinces gandu-ppedas are delicious, but they are abominal to those of the Middle Country. To the latter the flesh of pea-fowl is delicious. Asoka, being a native of Middle Country was fond of pea-cock flesh and could not give it up at once.

DIVERSIONS & AMUSEMENTS: Rock Edict VIII says that past kings were in the habit of going out on Vihara-yatras or pleasure tours where they enjoyed chase, etc., but Asoka replaced them by Dhamma-yatras, or tours for Dhamma since the 10th year of his reign when he visited Sembodhi, the place where Buddha obtained enlightenment. Before that he also indulged in pleasure excursions, pre-eminently in hunting. But sanctity of animal life which made an indelible impression on his mind after the Kalinga war, made his soul recoil from hunting.

Public entertainments: Ancient kings of India were in the habit of holding Samajas in which the subjects were entertained and feted. It was probably a diplomatic move to keep the people pleased and satisfied. The Samaja was of two kinds; (a) in which people were treated to dainty dishes in which meat played the most important part (Cf. Rantideva in Mbh. killing 2000 cattle and 2000 kine to fete his people --- in Vanaparvan). It was a convivial melee.

(b) In which people were treated to dancing, music, and other performances. It was synomymous with Ranga or Preksa-grha or preksagara (amphitheatre) (Cf. Hathigumpha insc. and Nasik Cave insc.)

HORRORS OF WAR: Conquest of Kalinga, the tract of land on the coast of
Bay of Bengal between Vaitarani and Languliya rivers, resulted in
1,50,000 captive slaves, 1,00,000 killed and many more died. The remebrance of these appalling figures after his conversion struck Asoka with
extreme and genuine remorse. The language is instinct with personal

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feeling and the rocks still echo across the ages the wail of a penitent soul. He chastised his officers for excesses on the conquered people and took steps to prevent them in future.

WHY KALINGA WAS COMQUERED? Rock Edict XIII tells us that Andhra, the country comprising the Kitsna and Godavari Districts, and Parimda, perhaps somewhere on the eastern outskirts of the Mauryan Empire, possibly in Bengal, --- were included in his empire. Kalinga was thus a sort of wedge driven into the body politic and might at any time conspire with the foreign Choda kingdoms of the south.

A year after his conquest of Kalinga he bacame a Buddhist and the idea of becoming a Cakravarti Dharmika Dharmaraja haunted his mind, i.e. a ruler of the earth, not through conquest, but through righteousness.

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ASOKAIS

FOURTEEN ROCK EDICTS

(GIRNAR VERSION)

1

This Dhammalipi has been caused to be written by king Priyadasi, beloved of the gods. No living being here should be killed and offered as a sacrifice; nor should any Samaja be held; for king Priyadasi sees much evil (harm), in a Samaja. There are, however, certain Samajas which are considered good by Priyadasi, beloved of the gods.

Formerly in the kitchen of the king Priyadasi, beloved of the gods, many hundreds and thousands of animals were slaughtered everyday for curry. That today when this script on morality has been written only three lives are killed, two peacocks and one deer; even that deer not regularly. Even these three lives shall not be killed afterwards.

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In Hathigumpha Insc. we are told that Kharavela, the ruler of Kalinga, amused his Capital town by celebrating 'utsavas' and 'samajas'. Previously the same thing was done by Gautamiputra Satakarni, and we know it from the Nasik Cave Insc. The Samaja was obviously a convivial melee and was designed to feast the eye, ear or the palate.

DEVANAM PRIYAH: One of the appellation of Asoka, commonly met with in the inscs., is 'Devanam priyah.' In later times the word came to mean a fool or a dunce, as Ehattoji Diksita in his Siddhanta Kaumudi says: 'devanam priya iti ca murkhe.' Hemacandra also corroborates this. But this evidently could not be the sense in the times of Asoka. Patanjali, we know, associates the word w with 'bhavat, dirghayus, and ayusmat', e.g., "Istijno hi devanam priyo na tu praptijnah. Isyate hy etad rupam iti." This shows that like other honorific terms 'devanam priyah' was also an auspicious mode of address or characterization. As a matter of fact, the Dipavamsa applied it with reference to Tissa, the ruler of Ceylon. In the Nagarjuni Hill Cave Insc. the term is

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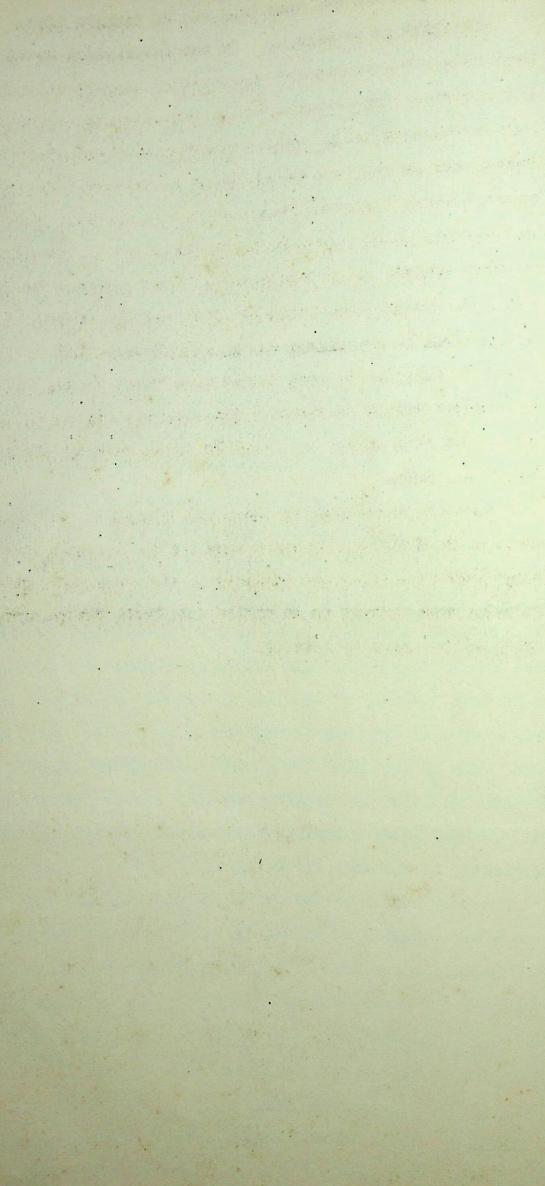
used to designate a king called Dasaratha. Similarly, an epigraph from Ceylon applies the epithet to Vanka Nasika Tissa, Gaja-bahuka-gamini, and Mahallaka Naga.

This honorific title was used in the case of kings only, as can be inferred from Rock Edict VIII, where in place of 'Devanam priya' of some versions, 'rajano' of other versions is employed. The term 'devanam priya' was probably used to indicate the belief that the kings were under the protection of the gods. It can best be rendered by the expressions : 'dear unto gods, or, beloved of the gods.

PRIYA-DARSIN: Except twice or thrice, the general name by which king Asoka is referred to in the inscs. is 'Priyadarsin. ' The word means 'one of amiable look, or, one of gracious mien. ' The fact that his grandfather Candragupta Maurya was also styled 'Piya-dassana' in Ceylonese chronicles, shows that this was not the proper name of the king. The Ceylonese chronicles call Asoka 'Priya-dasi' and 'Piya-dassana,' but the Indian epigraphs of the monarch describe him only as 'Piya-dasi.' This implies, therefore, that Asoka's grandfather also must have been called 'Piya-dasi' and not 'Piya-dassana.' From this it is clear that 'Piya-dasi' was only a 'biruda' of Asoka. That the proper name of the emperor was Asoka, is demonstrated by the sixth copy of the Minor Rock Edict I discovered at Maski in Sholapur district and another recently discovered in a place near Jhansi. These inscriptions mention the name of the king explicitly in the very first ling.

The only answer to the objection that why the king was more often referred to by his 'biruda' than his proper name, is that instances are not wanting where kings are known almost invariably by their epithets. Thus, the son of Govinda III of the Rastrakuta family of Manyakheta is known to us from all his documents by his epithet Amoghavarsa.

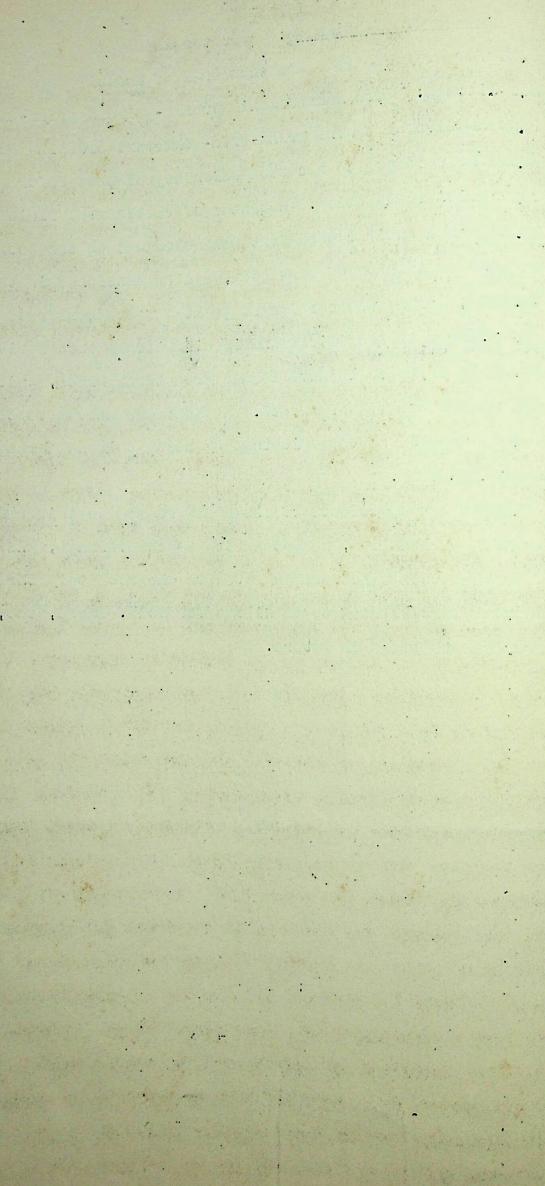
The Many Colors about to Comments and a Even though Asoka was an Emperor, he calls himself only 'raja.' This shows that grandiloquent titles like 'maharajadhiraja, or only Maharaja' employed singly or conjointly with



other epithets had not come into use in Asoka's time.

Slaughter of animals: In the inscription Asoka admits that formerly hundreds and thousands of animals were killed in his kitchen: "Pura mahanasamhi devanam-priyasa priya-dasino rano anudivasam bahuni prana-sata-sahasrani arabhisu supathaya. Asoka here refers to a custom which he followed before his conversion to Buddhism. Thousands of cattle were slain in the kitchen and their cooked meat was doled out to the poor. This at once reminds us of Rantideva, a king mentioned in the Mahabharata, during whose reign so great was the number of cattle slaughtered in sacrifices and in his kitchen that a river of blood is supposed to have issued from their hides, which was afterwards called Carmanvati. The meat was served to the poor and it is said in the epic that by doing this he earned untold merit and fame.

cruelty by Buddhism, he put a stop to the carnage, and at the time when this edict was engraved on the rock only three animals were allowed to be killed for food. These, too, he promised to spare in future.



GENERAL ASOKA'S DHAMMA

The word 'dhamma' being frequently used in his lithic records by Asoka, it is necessary to discover its true import. The word is the Prakrit or Pali form of Sanskrit 'dharma.' Time and again Asoka has exhorted his people to follow Dhamma. Not only did he preach others to practise Dhamma, he himself set an example to them. Rock Edict bears an eloquent testimony to Asoka's zeal for Dhamma. Says he, "aho bheri-ghoso dhamma-ghoso" and "dhamma-vadhiya vadheya vadhisati ceva Devanam-priyo priya-dasi raja."

Now the question arises what is Dhamma of which Asoka was so enamoured. Asoka himself puts the qestion and provides an answer to it in the End Pillar Edict : "Kiyam cu dhamme ti ? Apasinave bahukayane daya dane sace socaye," What is Dharma? It is freedom from depravity or sin, much good to others, mercy, munificence, truthfulness and purity. Asoka does not stop here but goes on to describe the duties by which the aforesaid virtues are to be translated into practice. They are non-slaughter of animate beings (anarambho prananam), noninjury to existing creatures (avihimsa bhutanam), service of parents (matari pitari ca susrusa), service of elders (thairasusrusa), reverence to teachers (gurunam apaciti), seemly behaviour towards friends, acquaintances and relatives (mitasamstuta-natikanam sampatipati), liberality towards Brahmanas and Sramanas (Bamhana-samanamam danam), proper treatment of servants and slaves (dasa-bhatakamhi samya-pratipati), thrift and less tendency for hoarding (apa-vyayata apa-bhamdata ca) This is in brief the message of Asoka, and even though a true 1sm, how lucid and succinct and sincere it appears even today The same virtues which have been sought to be inculcated by different religions and faiths, make a special appeal here. We can discern as it were the very personality of Asoka and hear his voice through these pillars or rocks, which, though lifeless, contain a living message to the war-torn world. It is the same in all climes and all ages.

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There are two facets to Asoka's Dhamma -- positive and negative, as are 'pravrtti' and 'nivrtti' in Brahmanical Dharma. The 'pravrttis' lead a man towards those higher values which have just been enumerated. But the whole or fuller account of Dhamma will not be possible without saying a few words about 'nivrttis' or taboos, or the negative side of Asoka's Dhamma.

The negative side can be summed up in one word - 'asinave.'

In Pillar Edict III, it is placed side by side with 'papa' and Asoka specifies there the malevolent affections which lead to it. They are ferocity (candiye), cruelty (nithuliye), wrath (kodhe), arrogance (mane), and jealousy (isya). Thus it will be seen that not only the performance of moral duties enumerated by Asoka is necessary, but also freedom from these passions is essential for the full and adequate fulfilment of Dhamma.

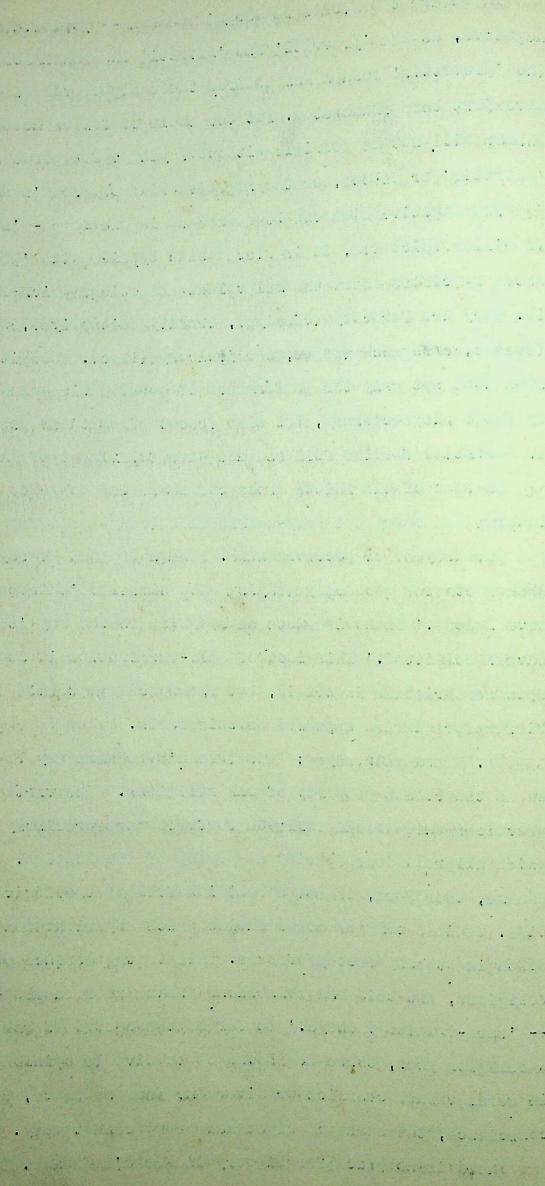
In some of his Edicts Asoka commands his people to peep inwards and carry out self-examination (agaya palikhaya = agrya-yah pariksayah) or paccavekkhana. Like a Prophet he says:

"Man seeth the good only (saying unto himself) 'this good deed have I done.' In nowise doth he see his sin and say 'this sin have I committed.' This idea of self-examination is looked upon as Christian in origin, but Asoka had propounded it centuries before Christ appeared on this earth.

Dr. Bhandarkar says: "His (Asoka's) Dhamma may be described as the common property of all religions." The virtues and practices which Asoka tells us to follow are precisely those which all religions specify as worthy of inculcation. Asoka's Dhamma, therefore, is not a religion full of theological niceties. It is a code of moral duties which any righteous man belonging to any sect professes. This is the essence of all religions, and this and this alone Asoka wants should thrive -- 'sara-vadhita vadheya.' So far as the doctrinal portion of a religion goes, there are bound to be diverse opinions. But in moral values conflict or divergence has no place, as the conscience, the sense of right and wrong cannot vary.

There is no pkace for bigotry in Asoka's Dhamma. The essence of all religions being the same, the possibility of

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mutual conflict is not very great. Moreover, Asoka asks the people who may profess a particular creed, to hearken to others and thus become 'bahu-śruta.' By doing so they will become 'kalyānāgama' and cause exaltation of their own faith (atmapasanda-vadhi) and illumination of Dhamma (Dhamma-dipana).

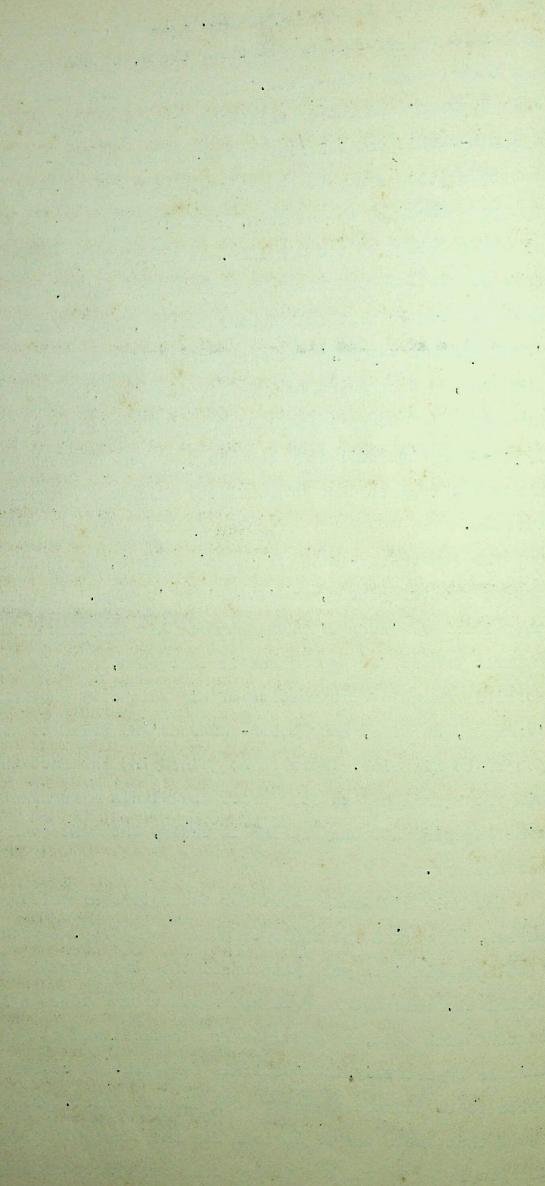
Toleration seems to be the key-note of Asoka's Dhamma. Though a Buddhist to the core, he does not force the followers of other faiths to toe his line. He is tolerant enough to allow them the freedom of faith and freedom of worship. Like the Preamble of the present Indian Constitution, Asoka declares: 'sava pasanda vaseyu,' every religious sect has a right to live. Moreover, not only should they live together, but also co-operate with each other instead of engaging in fruitless discussions. By co-operation will they be able to force up those points of agreement (rather than of conflict) which may not otherwise be visible.

The summum-and-bonum of "soka's Dhamma, as he himself points out at several places, is 'svaga' or 'svarga.' By holding out this ideal of 'svarga' Asoka exhorts his people to follow Dhamma. And so far propaganda is concerned, he employs every possible means of propagation of his faith. By showing the 'vimanas, Hastins, and Jyotih-skandhas' he tries to win over people to his side. There is no gainsaying the fact that all his propaganda had in its effect and within a remarkably short time Buddhism not only spread in India, but went even beyond her borders.

Not only did Asoka exert for the spiritual welfare of the masses, he worked for their temporal weal also. Says he:

"Phalani mulani ca yata yata nasti tata tata harapitani ca ropapitani ca. Pamthesu kupa ca khanapita vracha ca ropapita. Not content with that, he provided free medical aid to men and animals by establishing hospitals for both. He caused medical herbs to be planted wherever they did not exist. All this shows that Asoka was as anxious for the temporal welfare of the people as he was for their moral and spiritual uplift. He ameliorated their condition in this world and armed them for the f next.

(10)



ASOKA'S ROLE in THE SPREAD OF BUDDHISM

Buddhism which had hitherto been more or less a local sect was transformed into a world religion only through the missionary activities of Asoka, The great Emperor, who in the prime of his youth displayed a rare martial spirit and military genious in conquering and annexing Kalinga to his already vast empire, was destined to be the greatest of pacifists of his time, or of all times. The great massacre of Kalinga, it seems, shook the heart of the king from its very roots, and he at once resolved to relinquish all military conquest. His anguished heart found solace in the teachings of Lord Buddha, and instead of military conquests, he embarked upon a campaign of conquest by Dhamma (Dharma-vijaya). Asoka, as he himself tells us, entered the Buddhist fold in his 9th regnal year. For a year he remained lukewarm, but then suddenly/metamorphosed into a staunch devotee of Buddhism and began to undertake religious tours to Sambodhi and arrange religious instruction (Dhamma-savanani, Dhammanusathini). He set before himself the ideal of becoming (not a combative but) Dharmaraja Dharmika Cakravartin. This ideal always goaded him on to do all he could to propagate the simple religion of Sakya-muni. With the vast administrative and financial resources of his empire Asoka set out on the conquest of the hearts of people, a conquest perhaps more difficulat than a military conquest. In its results his Dhamma-vijaya was remarkably successful, so much so that in Minor Rock Edict I Asoka says: "Human beings who were not mixed with the gods, were caused to be mixed with them throughout the Jambudvipa. This is the fruit of effort." This shows that within an incredibly short Period of one year after Asoka's entry into the Samgha he succeeded in elevating the moral standard of the masses to such a high level that they were capable of mixing with the gods or saints. This is an achievement of which anyone can be justly proud.

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This phenominal success was achieved through the following measures:-

Firstly, as the Rock Edict IV tells us, Asoka tried to foster and propagate Dhamma by showing to the people the spectacles of Vimanas or celestial palaces, Hastins or divine elephants, and (lighted columns)

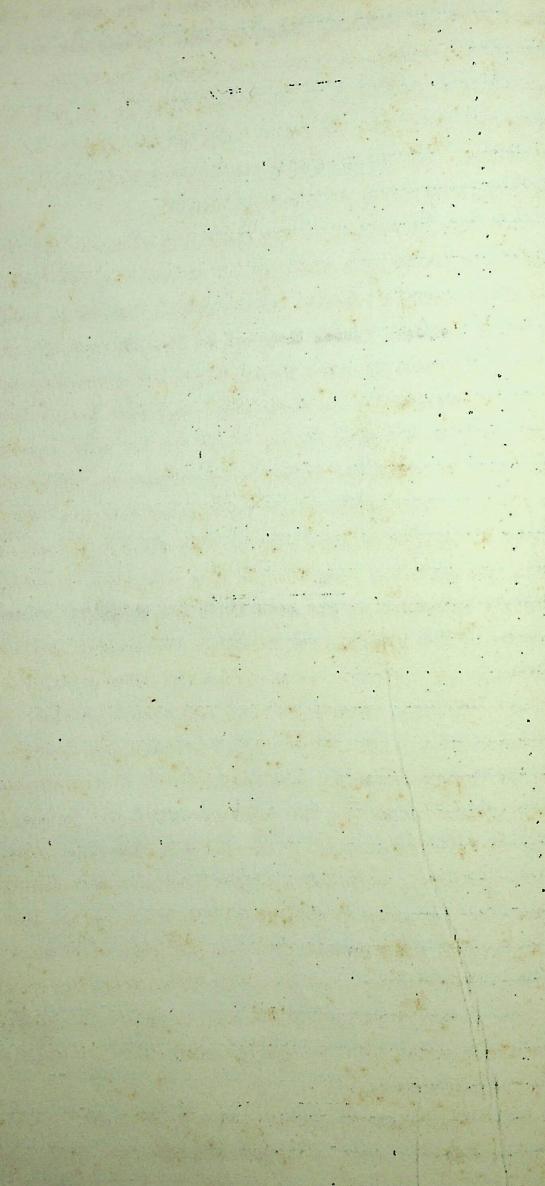
Jyotih-skandhas/or burning columns (agi-khandhani). These represented the kinds of heavenly bliss in store for the good and virtuous in the next birth when they would become gods.

He organized and encouraged Samajas or congregations of men for music, dancing and theatrical performances. These he utilized as excellent means of propaganda for the spread of Dhamma (Dhamma-vadnata). He, however, forbade those Samajas in which meat was served and looked upon them with disfavour (bahukam hi dosam samajamhi pasati Devanam-priyo priya-dasi raja).

He organized Dhamma-yatras in place of time-honoured Vihara-yatras (revelries or sprees). There he distributed money among the Brahmanas, Sramanas and the aged, and visited the provincials whom he gave instructions about Dhamma and made enquiries about Dhamma (janapadasa ca janasa dasanam Dhammanusasti ca Dhamma-paripucha. R.E. VIII).

Pillar Edict VII gives us a lucid account of the measures that the emperor adopted for the spread of Dhamma. For a time he kept pondering over the problem in ordervto evolve a Master Plan which couls show quick results. He had seem failure of the earlier kings in this direction and was, therefore, thoughtful enough to give it serious thought and devise some effective and fool-proof method. No wonder that his deliberations made him hit upon a Master Plan which may be used as an effective propaganda technique even today.

Asoka established Dhamma-stambhas (Dhamma-thambhani katani), which were not the usual architectural columns, but were pillars of Charity which he forthwith goes on to explain -- "magesu pi me nigohani lopapitani chayopagani hosanti pasu-munisanam, amba-vadikya lopapita, adha-kosikyani pi me udupanani khanapitani, nimsidhiya ca kalapita." But he does not attach great importance to these public works nor does he take exclusive credit for him-



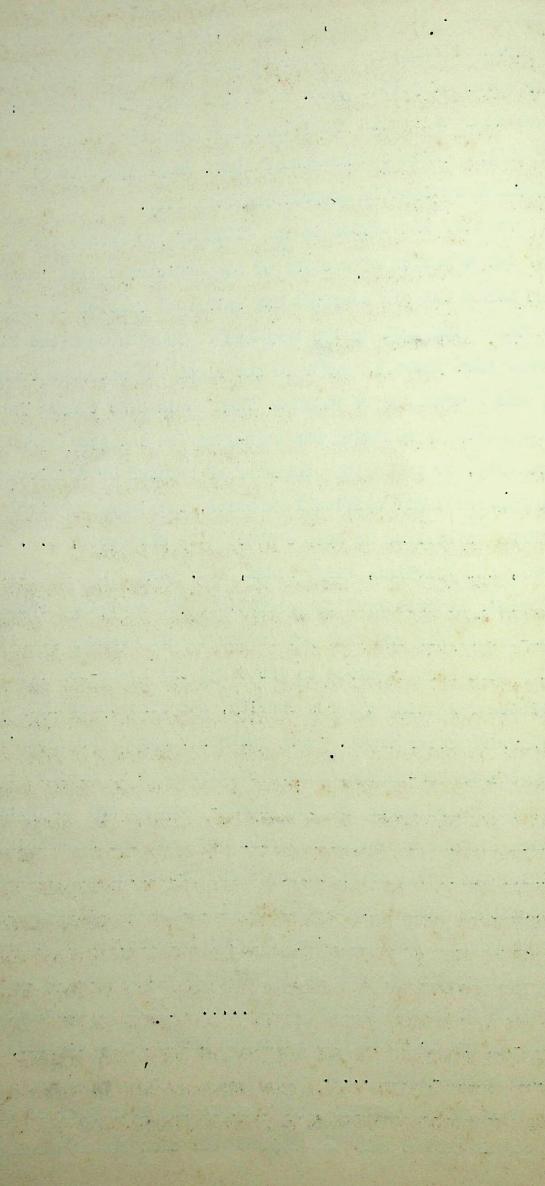
self for he admits that such good works were done by previous kings also. It appears, therefore, that Asoka's aim was to set a personal example in order to encourage the people to do similar works of public good. In Pillar Edict VII he says: "But I have done this with the intent that men may follow the practices of Dhamma (Imam cu Dhammanupatipati anupatipajantu ti = Imam tu Dharmanupratipattim anupratipadyatam iti).

Another innovation in the field of propaganda for Dhamma was the creation of a class of new officers called 'Mahamatas' who had a twofold temporal and spiritual funtion to perform. In their temporal duties they had to tour through the districts every five years in order to set right any excesses committed by the Pradesikas or Rajukas. They could also temper justice with mercy by allowing the teen-aged and the aged persons to be set free, or remit the sentences of orphans or afflicted persons. As regards their spiritual function, they were required to preach Dhamma as well as to keep contact with all sects, e.g. the Buddhists, the Ajivikas, Nirgranthas, etc. They were to focus the people's attention on the essentials (of religion) rather than non-essentials and thus put an end to all acrmony and bitterness. They were also required to encourage the house-holders to contribute something towards charity, and also to satisfy their hankering after truth. 'Sava pasanda vaseyu' was Asoka's ideal and the Dhamma-Mahamatas were commissioned to achieve that ideal.

The third means are the Dhamma-savanani and Dhammanusathini. which are the two aspects of the one and the same thing. In Pillar Mict VII Asoka tells us the practices and virtues that constitute Dhamma as he does in Pillar Edict II and Rock Edicts. As propaganda was necessary for the inculcation of these virtues, he ordered his Purusas and the Rajukas to preach to the people (Pulisa pi bahune janase ayata Lajuka pi bahukesa pratasata-sahesu ayata te pi me anapita hevam hevam ca paliyovada tha janam Dhamma-yutam ...).

Rock Edict III also says that in the 12th year of his reign he commanded not only the Rajukas but also the Pradesikas and the Yuktas to go on circuit every 5 years to deliver instructions

(J3)



in Dhamma in addition to the discharging of their official duties (Sarvata vijitasi mama yuta ca Rajuke ca Pradesike ca pancasu pancasu vasesu anusamyanam niyatu eta yeva athaya imaya Dhammanusastiye).

Thus, it will be seen that one of the most effective means employed by Asoka for the dissemination of Dhamma was the employment of higher order of his officials for preaching work. Just as his Yutas and Rajukas preached Dhamma inside the country, so did his ambassadors in foreign lands. In Rock Edict XIII, Asoka mentions his missionary activity in the kingdom of five Greek kings, Antiochus, Magas,

But this was not all. For in the same Edict the king tells us that where the envoys of the Beloved of Gods do not go, there the people having heard the utterances of Dhamma, the ordinances and teachings of Dhamma by the Gods' Beloved, practise Dhamma and will so practise. This, as Ehandarkar thinks, is a reference to his missionary activity in Burma and China.

From this it is evident that the missionary activities of Asoka were not confined to this country alone, but extended into the outside world also. As he was not moved by any narrow or parochial considerations, his Dhamma was meant for the whole of mankind. Even the dumb animal creation of God figured prominenly in his plans of betterment of this and the next life. In Rock Edict VI he says : "Nasti hi me toso ustanamhi athasamtiranaya va. Katavamate hi me sava-loka-hitam." Or, there is no higher duty than the welfare of the whole world. I am never satisfied with my exertions or despatch of business. These sentiments make Asoka one of the greatest humanitarians of his time as well as a great internationalist. He was not actuated in his endeavours by a desire for fame, for he says in Rock Mict X, "Devanam priyo priyadasi raja yaso va kiti va no mahathavaha mamnate." It was the idea of absolving himself from the debt of the living beings that impelled him on this difficult Path of Dhamma. "Bhutanam anamnam gaccheyam ... (R.E. VI).

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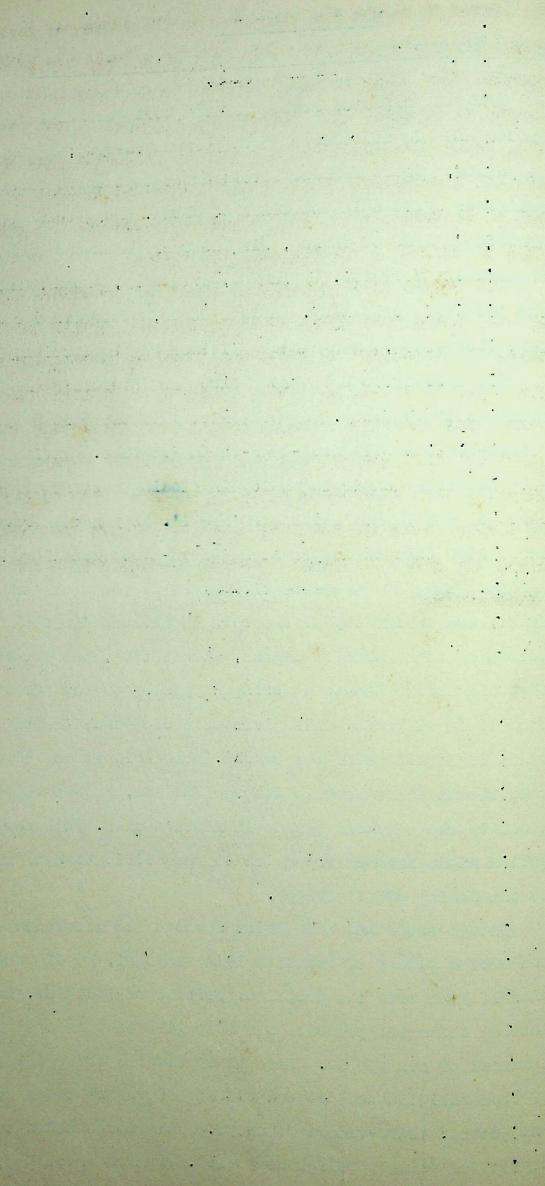
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CONDITIONS IN ASOKA'S TIMES

From the repeated mention of the word Pasanda in the Rock Edicts and his statements "Sava pasanda vaseyu; sava pasanda me pujita," there remains little doubt that there existed several religious systems in the times of Asoka. Among these specific mention is made of Samkha, Nirgantha or Jaina and Babhana or the Brahmanical religion. By Samkha, evidently, Asoka meant Samgha, the Buddhist Fraternity. Eesides these, other minor religions also flourished, among which Ajivikas may be specially mentioned.

The inscriptions of Asoka throw an interesting light on the Buddhism of that day. In Rock Edict XIII there is a post script: "sarva-sveto hasti sarva-loka-sukhaharo nama." Various scholars have exercised their ingenuity in finding out the true significance of the words 'sveto' or 'hasti'. They have arrived at the conclusion that the expression 'sarva-sveto hasti' refers to Buddha. There is representation of an elephant at Dhauli and Kalsi, and on the top of the rock is written 'Gajatame.' Now, according to a Buddhist legend, Bodhisattva, the future Buddha, left the Tusita heaven to being happiness to the people in the form of an elephant. This gives us a clue that 'Hasti' or 'Gajatama' is nothing else but Buddha. From this it may be observed that though there were no icons of Buddha, he was represented at least by the elephant symbol in Asoka's time. This earlier symbolism might have later on led to the deification of Buddha and to the making of his images.

Though Asoka was a Buddhist devotee and undertook tours to the sacred places of Buddhism like Sambodhi, he did not concern himself much with the doctrinal portion of Buddhism. He deeply imbibed its moral principles and applied them to the moral rearmament of his people. These he considered to be the essence of true religion and devoted all his energy to their promotion and growth: "sara-vadhitz vadheya." Toleration seems to be the keynote of Asoka's religious policy. In Rock Edict XII, he advises his people not to indulge in mutual recrimination and the glorification of their own sect. Instead, he enjoins them



to listen to others and thus promote the growth of their own sect, for otherwise they would only harm their own sect: "Atpapasanda-puja va para-pasanda-garaha va no bhave apakaranamhi lahuka va asatamhi tamhi prakarane. Pujetaya tu eva para-pasanda Evam karum atpa-pasandam ca vadhayati para-pasandasa ca upakaroti. Tad-amnatha karoto atpa-pasandam ca chanati para-pasamdam ca pi apakaroti." That is why Asoka advises his people to live in concord: "Ta samavayo eva sadhu."

The Edicts also enlighen us about the prevalent superstitions of that time. Rock Edict IX tells us that people perform many kinds of 'mangalas' or religious rites on several occasions like the birth of a son, marriage, going to a foreign land, etc.:

"Asti jano ucavacam mamgalam karote..." Especially the women performed many and useless types of religious rites: "Eta tu mahidayo bahu nirathakam mamgalam karote." This is just as it is today. Asoka advised people not to indulge in these futile rites but practise Dhamma-mamgala, because this alone was 'maha-phala.'

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THE SOCIAL CONDITIONS IN THE TIME OF ASOKA

Wherever Asoka recommends good practice to be followed for the realisation of Dhamma, he uses the expression: 'Dasabhatakamhi sampratipati.' Now, the word bhataka means an ordinary servant in contrast to the word 'dasa' or a slave. The use of the expression 'dasa' seems to indicate the existence of the practice of slavery. The occurence of this word in lithic records is enough to disprove the much flaunted statement of Negasthenese that slavery was absent in India in the time of Asoka. That slavery continued to exist even after Asoka can be gathered from a reference in Mrcchakatika where Vasantasena bought the freedom of Madanika by paying a large amount as ransom. It may be that 'dasa' referred to a certain type of menial servants but it would be the perversity of truth to say that slavery existed in the form in which it existed the West where the slaves were more brutally treated than animals.

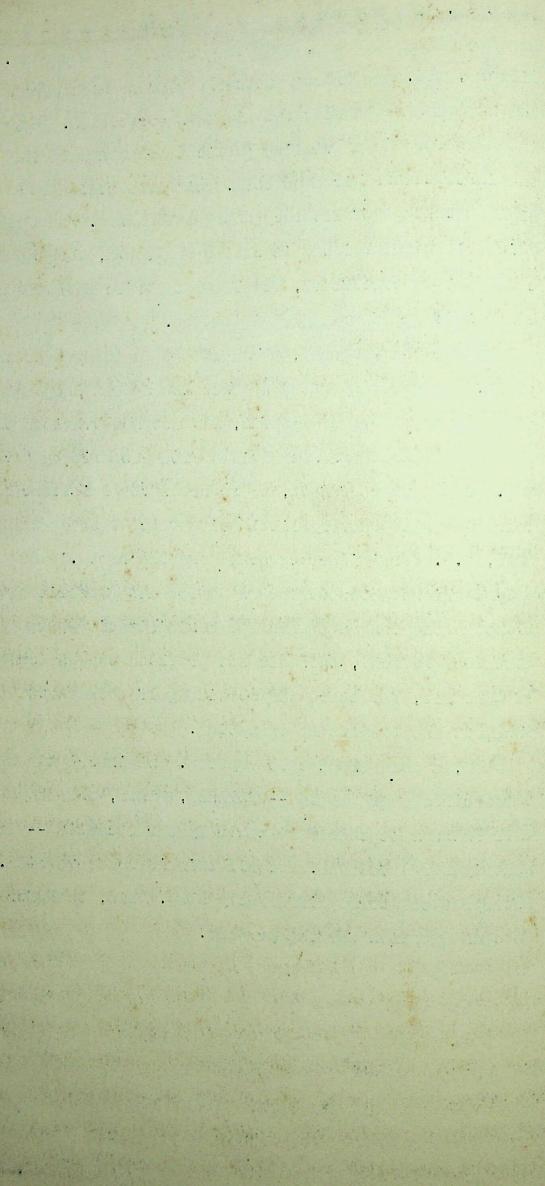
Asokan inscriptions throw some light on the condition of women also, particularly on the women of the royal household. Asoka had given orders to his officials and servants to report to him people's business even if he be taking food, or in closed apartments, or in the inner chamber (orodhanamhi gabhagarammhi). The word for royal harem is 'orodhana.' This, therefore, is a clear proof of the fact that the women of the royal household were kept in seclusion, which at once reminds us of the expression 'asuryampasya raja-darah' cited in the Kasika-vrtti. The prevailing view that Purdah system was first introduced into India by Mohammedan conquerors is thus fully refuted. The deduction from the edicts is further confirmed by references to 'avagunthana' and 'yavanika' in the dramas of Ehasa and Kalidasa, Kamasutra of Vatsyayana, and above all the Arthasastra of Kautilya, the Chief Minister of Asoka's grandfather.

One more point on which the inscription shed a welcome light is the percentage of literacy in India. Asoka has said repeatedly that his documents were published so that people may learn the principals of Dhamma and translate them into

all manned are and 6 practice. This hope on the part of Asoka implies that masses in his time were literate, that they could at least read. The Pillars, etc. are erected at those places which were either on the highways or outside the big towns or cities. They were intended for the travelling public to read and be inspired by the instructions given on them. This is a solid proof of the high percentage of literacy among the masses. Had the Pillars or edicts been established in cities and towns, such an inference could not be conclusive, for literacy is bound to be higher in centres of learning and civilisation.

As for the language, Magadhi is used throughout the Cangaplain. While we may not deny that the spoken language of that time was some form of Prakrit, we must not overlook the fact that the Prakrit was not divided from Sanskrit by a very big gap. As a matter of fact, there are several instances in which there seems to be very little difference between the two languages, e.g. "Asti jano ucavacam mamgalm karote." The passage has only a slight phonetical change from its Sanskrit equivalent. Although the language used for administrative purposes of the State was Magadhi, this did not preclude the use and popularity of Sanskrit, for there was no wide gulf between the Classical Sanskrit and Prakrit at that time.

Now, a word about caste system. The inscriptions mention three classes of people -- Babhana, Bhata, and Ibhya (R.E. 5). This shows that there existed only three castes -- Brahmanas, ksatriyas and Vaisyas. But all this is controversial. We can interpret the terms differently also. This, therefore, remains an open question for the present.

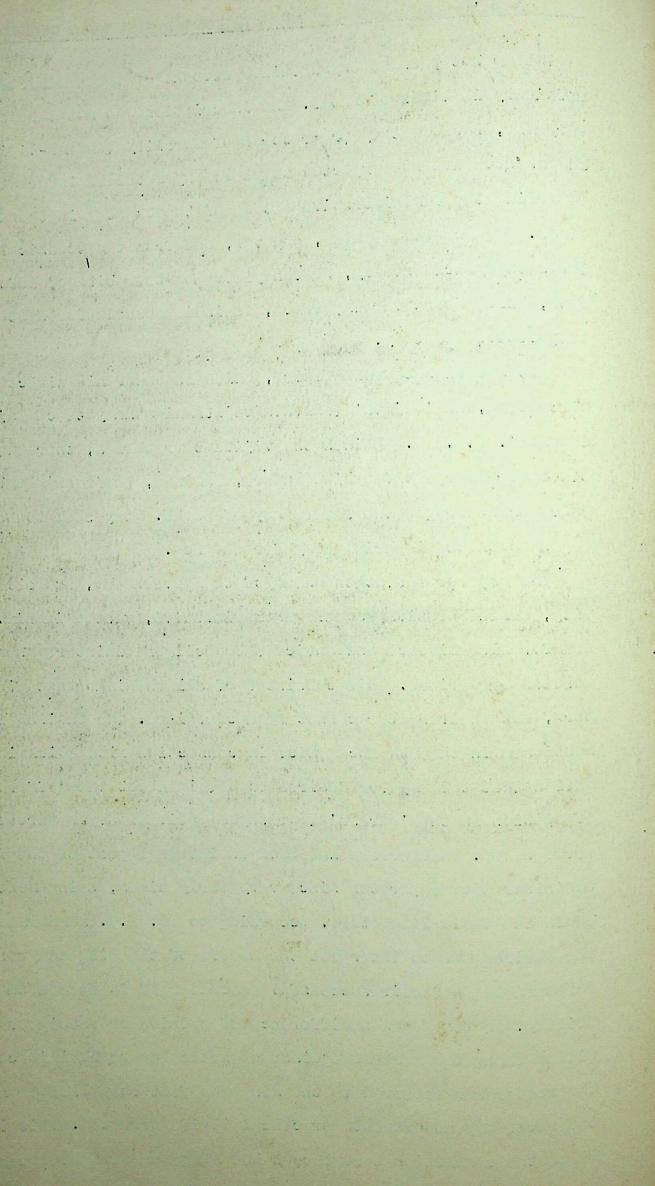


ASOKA'S EMPIRE & ADMINISTRATION

We do not possess any detailed account of the administrative machinery in times of Asoka. The inscriptions do not take us very far, because they are records of morality (Dhamma-lipis) and as such are not expected to yield any detailed information regarding the administrative set up of the country in those times. From casual remarks, however, and from the technical terms used incidentally, we can piece together bits of information, which howsoever imperfect, is indispensable for a student of political history.

Asoka designates his empire, which is under his direct administration, as 'vijita' (sarvata vijitamhi mama yuta ca Rajuke ca kata'. R.E.). Besides the vijita territories, there were other feudatory states like Andhra, Parinda, Bhoja and Kamboja which acknowledged the suzerainty of Asoka. They seem to have depended on the imperial army for defence.

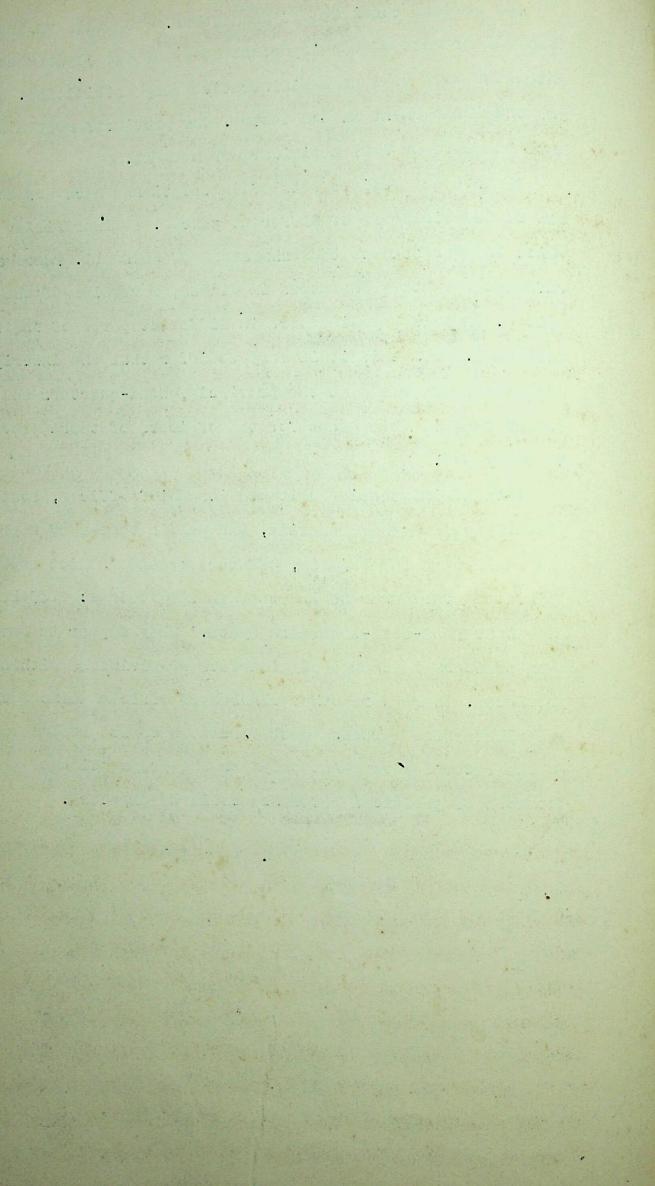
The emperor was at the head of the government, and all authority, administrative as well as legislative, vested in him. He had for his guidance and advice a Council of Ministers known as Pastisa or Parisad. This consisted of all the important Ministers, but their number cannot be ascertained. The Parisad is mentioned in the 6th Rock Edict in connection with quick information that the emperor desires to obtain about the difference of opinion in the 'Parisa' (Parisayam pativeditavyam sarvata sarve lake). The Parisad has been an integral part of the Indian administrative apparatus since very early times, being mentioned in the Vedic literature. According to Dr. D.R. Bhandarkar, the Parisad was to interpret the orders of the king and was responsible for their successful execution if it agreed on their utility. If there was a difference of opinion or unanimous opposition among the members against a particular royal injunction, the matter was referred to the king who felt compelled to make the necessary adjustments or cancel it if warranted. This leads us to the conclusion that though the king had delegated certain powers to the Parisad, he continued to remain the final authority, i.e., the fountaun-head from whence all authority sprang.



The Parisad consisted of Mahamatras. From this we infer that all or most of the important heads of the Departments entrusted with various administrative responsibilities. That was the arrangement at the Centre. The provinces must also have had more or less a similar arrangement.

We have got various sets of inscriptions which are addressed to the Ministers of different places. A Minor Pillar Edict is addressed to the Mahamatras of Kausambi. There are references to the Mahamatras in Siddhapur version of the rock edicts. In this way Ministers in different parts of india are addressed. From this it is easy to infer that the inscriptions were mostly engraved at the provincial head-quarters and the orders therein were meant for the officers of those provinces to carry out.

Each administrative unit had its Chief Officer, most probably called the Pradesika, and was in charge of a province. Under him were the Rajukas, officers as the Rict says, appointed over hundreds and thousands of beings: "Rajuka pi me bahusu pana-sata-sahasresu ayata." They appear to have been officers in charge of districts or Divisions within the provinces. There were other classes of officers also such as the Yuktas and Purusas whose functions cannot be determined. As the records were meant only for the propagation of Dhamma, not much of political reference could be expected.



SEVEN PILLAR EDICTS

(DELHI TOPRA VERSION)

Thus saith king Piyadasi, beloved of the gods. Having been anointed for 26 years this script on morality was caused to be written by me. This world and the next are difficult to attain except by foremost longing for Dhamma, foremost examination, foremost service, foremost fear, and foremost effort. But through a fervour a will increase my instruction the regard/for Dhamma has increased/day by day. And my officers, whether of high, middle or lower rank, will conform to it and accomplish it. They are quite competent to reclaim the fickle (And they are quite able to urge others /to do it/ --- 'alam ca palam=param'-- Dr. Ehandarkar). So also the ministers of the frontiers. This indeed is the method (or precept -- Ehandarkar) that this (namely,) protection by Dhamma, causing happiness by Dhamma, and guarding by Dhamma.

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COMMENT S

Ever since Asoka became Buddhist, his Dhamma-vijaya: mind yearned to achieve a conquest by Dhamma, and, as Dr. Bhandarkar points out (in "Asoka"), he was anxious to win the title of 'Cakravarti Dharmika Dharmaraja'. This Dhamma-vijaya of Asoka, as is recently observed by T.N. Ramacandran, was not different from that advocated in the Mahabharata or the Arthasastra. Kautilya distinguishes between three kinds of conquerors -- 'Dharma-vijayin, lobha-vijayin, and asura-vijayin.' According to his definition, the first is satisfied with mere obeisance of the defeated king, the second by what he can safely gain in land and money, and the third with the life of the vanquished. From the description of Kalidasa : "sriyam jahara na tu medinim, " it appears that in ancient times Dharma-vijaya was understood to consist in depriving the defeated or weaker king of his glory only and not of his territory. This laudable ideal is well exemplified in Raghu and Samudragupta, and such other kings who practised the ideal of 'grahana-moksa.' In the present edict, Dhamma-vijaya stands far as an antithesis to 'sarasaka'

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PI LLAR EDICT II

(TRANSLATION)

Beloved of the gods Fiyadasi, the king, has said thus -Dhamma is good. But what does Dhamma consist of ? (It consists
of) freedom from depravity (L.J.W. -- little sin), much good,
compassion, charity (Bhand. - liberality), truth, purity. And
verily I have distributed charities of various kinds (lit.
the gift of sight have I given in manyfold ways). To the bipeds and quadrupeds, the winged and the aquatic animals have
I done many kinds of benevolent deeds, even up to the boon of
life. But other good deeds have also been done by me. For this
purpose the script on morality has caused to be written by me,
that (people) may adopt it accordingly and that it may long
endure. He who will conform to it in the (prescribed) manner
will do a good deed.

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COMMENTS

Apasinave bahu kayane : In answer to a self put question 'What is Dhamma ?' Asoka mentions & six principles which constitute Dhamma. The first two of them are 'apasinave' and 'bahu kayane'. Now, 'bahu kayane' means much good. As the two are placed in juxtaposition with each other, the suggestion is irresistible that they are antithetical and as such represent sent the two sides of Asoka's Law of Piety, the negative and positive. As 'bahu kayane' is positive, so naturally 'apasinave' is negative. It means 'a little demerit, a small fault' (alpaasnavah). Now the question arises what 'Asinava' is, the negatiive of which is recommended here ? In Pillar Edict III 'asinava' has been mentioned side by side with 'papa' (sin), or in Edict X we meet with 'apa-parisrave' or 'apa-palisave' in the sense of small demerit. It therefore appears that 'asinava is the same as 'asava', a term frequently occuring in Buddhist Jatakas. But the 'asavas' of Buddhism are not the 'asinavas' of which Asoka speaks here. In the Jaina work A aranga-sutta, a word Anhaya occurs which Jacobi translates as sin. The term cor人名西德拉斯 自己的法国 "会会"的一个 Control of the second of the second

responds to 'asinava' and like that is derived from 'a-_/snu'.

As the word 'asinava' (=athahaya) is used in P.E. III side by side with 'papa', it seems that both have different meanings or connotation. 'papa' means sin, Dr. Bhandarkar observes:

"We shall not be far from right if we take 'asinava' to signify depravity or defilement."

The 'asnavas' or 'anhaya' of Jainism are in essentials the same as enumerated in their works. Asoka seems to have adopted and assimilated some of the psychological concepts of Jainism.

Some regard 'asinava' to be the Apabhramsa form of 'asrava' Which occurs in Apastamba Dharmasutra (3.2.5.19) and is explained by Haradatta in his commentary as "yaih purusah asravyate bahir akrsyate,' that is to say by which a man is drawn towards the outward pleasures of life. But Dr. Buhler and others do not accept this interpretation, because Sanskrit 'sra' changes to 'ssa' in Pali and Prakrit and not to 'sina'. Therefore the above derivation seems to be the correct one.

'Cakhu-dane pi me bahu-vidhe dimne': I have made the gifts of the eyes in manyfold ways. The word 'cakhu' (==Caksu) has been often used both in Hindu scripturs in the sense of 'spiritual insight' (paramarthika drstio. Here it means, therefore 'the sight of the doctrine (R.E. - IX and XI). The means adopted towards this end consisted of Dhammanusathini, i.e., imparting of instructions in the laws of piety and morality. Cakhu stands for 'light' (aloka), 'knowledge' (panna-cakhu=light of knowledge).

'Sace socaye': 'saca' or truthfulness is the moral quality which is defined by Asoka as the courage of speaking the truth' sacam vataviyam' (Brahmagiri, M.R.E. - II) and the strength of adhering to faith: 'dadha-bhatita'. 'Socaye' is the mental quality consisting essentially in 'bhava-sudhita', i.e., purity of heart, purity of motive, purity of sentiment and is broad-based on self-restraint (samyama).

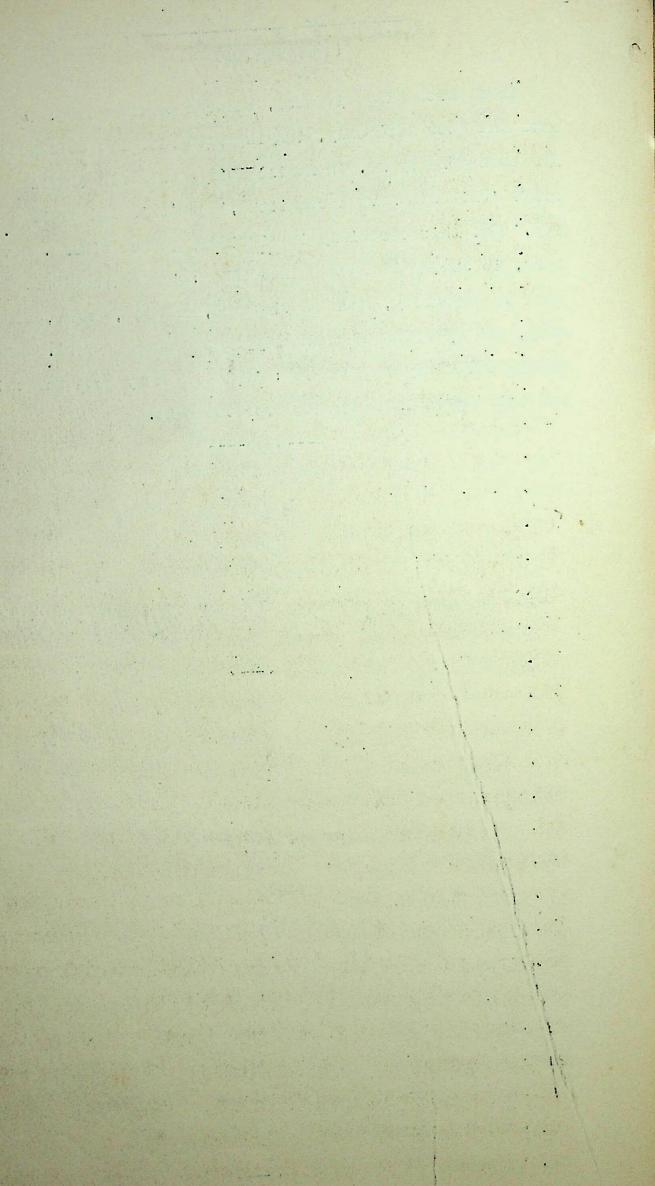
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PILLAR EDICT III

(TRANSLATION)

Thus saith king Piyadasi, beloved of the gods: (A person) sees the good deed only, (saying unto himself) this good deed has been done by me. In nowise does he see sin (saying unto himself) 'this sin have I committed,' or 'this indeed is a depravity.' But this certainly is difficult to scrutinize. Nevertheless, it should be looked into thus: 'these(passions) indeed lead to depravity, such as violence, cruelty, anger, conceit, envy, and by means of these may I not cause my fall. This should certainly be seen to: 'This is to my good for this world and this again is to my good for the next.

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PILLAR EDICT IV

(TRANSLATION)

Thus saith Priyadasi, beloved of the gods : Having been consecrated for 26 years, this script on morality was caused to be written. The Hajukas have been set by me over people (consisting of) hundreds and thousands of souls. Any reward or punishment by them has been placed by me under their control (L.J.N. -- I have granted independence to them in matters judicial and criminal) in order that the Rajukas may perform their duties with confidence and without fear, cause welfare and happiness to the people of the provinces and confer favours/(upon them). They will make themselves acquainted with what gives happiness and pain and will exhort the per people of the country in a manner which is in accordance with Dhamma, so that they may propitiate the here and the hereafter. It behoves the Rajukas to serve me (Bhand. - The Rajukas are eager to serve me). Purusas will also act according to my desire) They too will exhort some so that the Rajukas will strive to please me. Just as one feels confident (reassured) after making over one's offspring to a clever (intellident or experienced) nurse (saying unto himself) 'the nurse is clever. The nurse will bring up my children happily. So here Rajukas have been appointed by me for the happiness and welfare of the provincials. In order that they may perform their duties with confidence, without fear (and) without perplexity (L.J.N. - without being attracted), for this reason any reward or punishment by the flajukas has been placed by me under their sole control (L.J.N. - for this have I made the Rajukas independent in m matters, judicial and criminal). This indeed is desirable. For what ? For the sake that there should be uniformity in matters judicial and criminal (Bhand. - Uniformity of administration and uniformity of punishment). Even this is my injunction - to men who are bound by fetters, on whom sentence has been passed and who have been condemned to death, have I granted three days as something rightfully and exclusively

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their own. (In the interval) their qualities will propitiate (the Rajukas) in order to grant their life, and to propitiate death they (the convicta) will give alms and observe fasts pertaining to the next world. For my desire is that even when (in the period of imprisonment) the time has expired, they may propitiate the next world (in this short time)! and that people's manifold pious acts, self-restraint and allotment for charities may increase.

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COMMENTS

'Nasamtam va nijhapayita': The word 'nijhapayita' signifies 'a person to plead for.' A Gatha in Ayoghara Jataka speaks of two kinds of 'nijjhapana,' one is that od appealing to the king and convincing him of convict's innocence by calling reliable witnesses, and the other is that of making the heavenly king of Death relent, and propitiate him with religious offerings (bali-kamma-vasena khamapenti pasadenti). Now, a Jataka passage says : 'labhamti te rajino nijjhetum ta maccuno nijjhapanam karomti.' Here the word 'nijjhapana' is used predicatively of 'maccuno' or death. It appears that here also the same idea is intended. Although here we have Rajjukas in place of the king to whom appeal is to be referred for the commutation of the sentence or ant other type of relaxation to save the doomed (jivitaye tanam), the other idea, in that of pleading, the propitiation of death, is the same. The word 'hasantam' means death, whose disposition (anta=end) is 'nasa' destruction. There will thus be a twofold propitiation according to Asoka: (1) Propitiation of Rajjukas by the relations of the convict by adducing proofs of his innocence and (2) propitiation of Death by the convict himself.

'Yote dinne': Kern equates 'yote' with Samskrta 'Yautaka.'
Dr. Bhandarkar accepts the view and says: "Kern rightly connects 'yote' with Samskrta 'yautaka', ans 'yate is taken by European & scholars in the sense of respite.

Here an important point to note is that 'yautaka' does not mean - respite, but something exclusively and rightfully belonging to a person. This sense is by no means inapplicable here."

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According to Dr. B.M.Barua, the word has no such sense in the early literature. In Sabda-kalpa-druma it is given to mean 'something received by a woman by way of dowry or wedding present and hence forming her exclusive property.' Dr. Barua thinks that 'yote' is equivalent to 'yotre' and 'yotram' of Prakrit and Sanskrit respectively, meaning 'given full scope or rope, i.e. respite of three days.'

'Atapatiye me kate' : Here 'atapatiye' is in apposition to 'abhihale' and 'damde', THE award of reward or punishment, the hearing of cases or judgment, in short, the administration of justice which was the normal duty of the Rajukas. The expression 'atapatiye' means 'a matter of one's own concern.' The consensus of opinion among Asokan scholars is that 'these are metters of the sole concern of the Rajukas, and not of the king as suggested by S.N.Mitra. The analogy by which Asoka makes us understand the new situation is that of a father being relieved of the worry and anxieties after entrusting his child to a clever nurse. Here the father is evidently the king, and subjects the children, and Rajukas the nurse. In the present Edict too, while explaining the analogy Asoka says : 'Hevam mama lajuka kata janapadasa hita-sukhaye,' which shows that the whole charge of the good and happiness of the people was given to the Rajukas. The immediate object of the measure was to enable them to work on their own initiative and responsibility without fear and with self-confidence.

The statement of Asoka 'atapative me kate' implies that before this they had not free hand and worked as they did under a constant fear of interference from the king or his depaties. It was Asoka who for the first time removed this sword of Democles off their heads, and made them independent for the proper discharge of the functions of their Departments. To use the modern expression, the judiciary was made, as far as possible, independent of the executive so that justice may be done without any fear or favour. This, indeed, one of the great achievements or reforms of Asoka.

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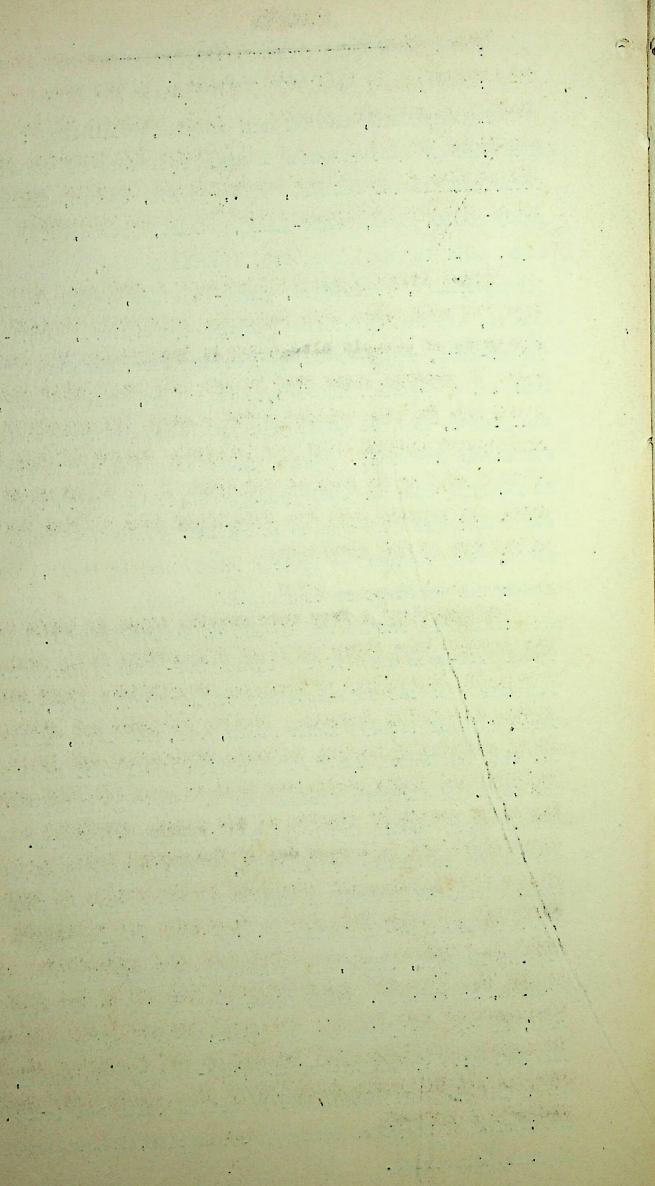
'Viyohala-samata ca damda-samata ca' : Dr. Bhandarkar translates as 'uniformity in administration and uniformity in punishment (damda).' Now, what is uniformity ? This is indeed difficult to answer. But what he probably meant was this : The Rajukas were not the only officers who were connected with the administration of justice. There were two more officers, the Nagara-vyavaharikas and Pradestrs, who performed the functions of a judge. As there were, thus, three classes of officials in one and the same province who performed judicial as well as other duties, uniformity in respect of 'vyavahara' and 'damda' was not possible. The administration of justice could not consequently be expected to be uniform even ax so far as the people of one province were concerned. This was a veritable evil and Asoka tried to remedy it by handing over the Rajukas the sole charge of judicial department and relieving the other classes of official of this work.

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PILLAR EDICT V

(TRANSLATION)

King Piyadasi, the beloved of gods, saith thus; After the 26th year of my coronation I have prohibited the slaughter of these animals (or beings), viz., parrot, thrush, aluna (aruna), ruddy goose, swan, nandi-mukha, gelata, jatuka(bat), ambakapilika, dudi (a small tortoise), boneless fish, vedaveyaka (jivamjivaka=cakora, pratridge), gamga-puputaka, samkuja-mache (oyster ?), kaphata (tortoise), seyake (porcupine), pamna-sase (parna-sasa, squirrel ?), the srmara deer, sandake (castrated bull ?), oka-pinde, the spotted antelope, white pigeon, domestic pigeon, and all quadrupeds which are neither put to use nor eaten (as food). A goat, sheep or sow which is pregnant or is yielding milk or their young ones (cubs) up to the age of six months are also not to be killed. Cocks should not be slain, husk containing insects should not be burnt, forests should not be burnt to cause havoc or destruction of beasts, and one animal should not be fed on another animal. On the three full-moon days of the three four-monthly divisions (of the year), on the full-moon day of the month Pausa, on the three days of (every) lunar month, viz, the 14th, 15th and the 1st, on Dhruva and fast days fish should not be killed nor sold. In elephant forests and on ferries all other kinds animals also should not be killed on these very days. Bulls should not be branded on the 8th, 14th and 15th days of every lunar fortnight as well as under the Tisya and Punarvasu constellations or on festive days of the four-monthly divisions. Nor should goat, sheep, hog and other animals that are usually branded, be branded. Under the constellation Tisya and Punarvasu, at the beginning of the four-monthly divisions and during the (bright?) fortnights of the four-monthly divisions, the horse and the bull should not be marked (with hot iron). During the period of 26 years since my coronation, I have effected 25 jail deliveries.

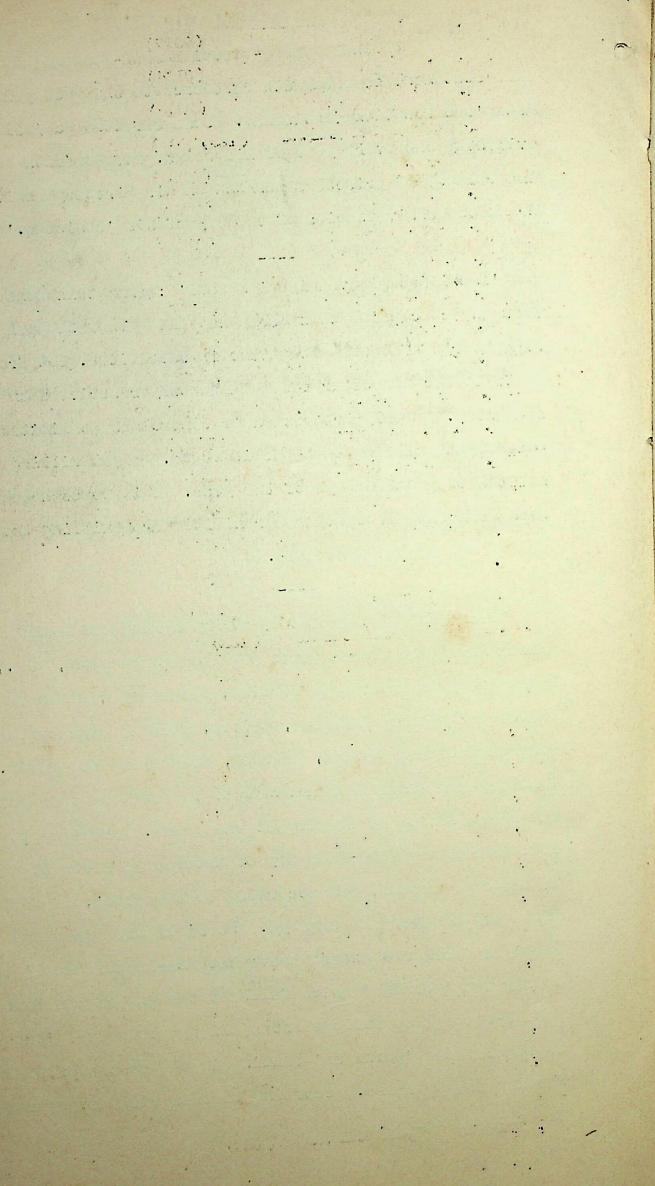


COMMENTS

'Etaya amtalikaye pamna-visati bamdha-mokhani katani':
This statement is made with reference to the 26th year of
Asoka's coronation (abhiseka). Asoka effected 25 jail deliveries
evidently one every year of his reign. The question is, whether
made
the release of prisoners was/Mas on his birthday anniversaries
or on the anniversaries of the day of his 'abhiseka.'

'Imani jatani avadhiyani katani': Fran this Some people draw the conclusion that Asoka had altogether stopped the slaughter of animals altogether in sacrifices. But from this edict it becomes clear that he had only restricted the animal slaughter. He only brought under control the unlimited and extravagant killing that was in vogue. Animal killing was prohibited only on 56 days of the year. It is to be noted that among the animals that are prohibited from killing the name of the cow is not mentioned.

'Catummasisu': From very ancient times in India the year was divided into three parts of four months each, viz., winter comprising the months of Kartika, Margasirsa, Pausa and Magha; summer comprising Phalguna, Caitra, Vaisakha and Jyestha; and Rains comprising Asadha, Sravana, Bhadrapada ans Asvin. Hindu, Buddhist and Jaina mendicants used to pass the four months of the rainy season by staying at one place. According to one calculation the full-moon day of Caturmasya falls at the end of the four months, and according to the other, it falls on the first day of every Caturmasya. Patanjali has explained 'caturmasi' as ' catursu masesu bhava caturmasi paurnamasi' that is to say the 'purnima' which falls at the end of the four months. Kasika-vrtti also follows Patanjali and considers 'caturmasi' to signify the 'purnimas' falling in the months of Asadha, Kartika and Phalguna. According to this view every caturmasya end with a purnima.



PILLAR EDICT VI

Thus says king Piyadasi, Beloved of the gods: since I was consecrated twelve years I have caused Dhamma-lipi to be written for the welfare and happiness of the people. Avoiding this and that (without violation of this and that -- Bhandarkar) they may attain to this and that growth of Dhamma (perceiving): thus hies the happiness and welfare of the people. I scrutinize whether as among (my) relatives so among those far and near -- what ? -- whether I bring happiness to them and I act accordingly. And similarly I examine among all sects, (congregations -- Ehandarkar). And sects I have honoured with various honours. And that which is examination by self which is considered foremost by me. / The voluntary advances (to a sect) are considered by me as the chief thing./ This Dhamma-lipi has been caused to be written by me when crowned twenty-six years.

